

# REDCAT

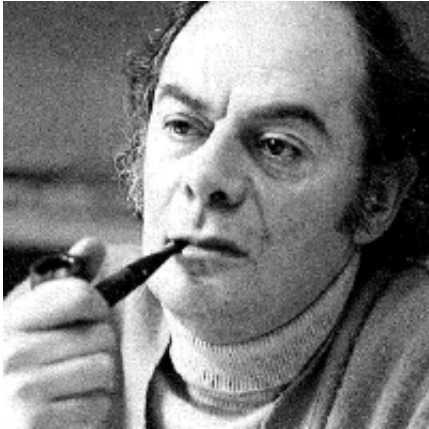
ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**REDCAT presents**



## **CLAUDE LEFORT, THINKER OF THE POLITICAL**

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

<http://www.redcat.org/event/claude-lefort>

"Claude Lefort was one of the most seminal political theorists to reflect on the enduring meanings of democracy in the shadow of 20th-century totalitarianism."

— Jeffrey C. Isaac, James H. Rudy, Professor of Political Science, Indiana University, USA

"Lefort's oeuvre appears as crucial for our understanding of the political as that of Leo Strauss, whose antithesis it forms in many respects. Inventing rights and disincorporating power are the principles of his theory of democracy beyond the revolutionary age..."

— Étienne Balibar, Professor Emeritus of moral and political philosophy at Université de Paris X

**LOS ANGELES, CA**—REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, hosts, as part of the CalArts' Aesthetics and Politics Lecture Series, **Claude Lefort, Thinker of the Political**. This panel discussion with Bernard Flynn of the New School for Social Research and Claudia Hilb of the Universidad de Buenos Aires will be introduced by CalArts' Martin Plot and presented as part of a two-day symposium on The Aesthetic Character of Politics in Hannah Arendt and Claude Lefort. **Claude Lefort, Thinker of the Political** will take place at REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater) on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 8:30 pm.

French philosopher Claude Lefort's oeuvre developed over a period of six decades until his passing in 2010. For this panel discussion, Bernard Flynn of the New School for Social

Research and Claudia Hilb of the Universidad de Buenos Aires debate Lefort's phenomenological style and legacy in contemporary thought as a political theorist and literary critic. It is impossible to overstate the ways in which Claude Lefort's notions of "power as an empty place" and "the modern dissolution of the markers of certainty" have influenced democratic theorizing over the past three decades. From Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe's early work on hegemonic struggle to Slavoj Žižek's Lacanian ontology of the political, and from Jacques Rancière's aesthetic understanding of politics to Andrew Arato and Jean Cohen's studies of civil society and post-sovereign constitution making, Lefort's thought has become both radical and liberal democracy's obligatory reference and unparalleled knot of confluence.

The panel discussion, followed by a Q&A, also celebrates the forthcoming release of a new book by the same title, edited by Plot. This volume brings together scholars from around the world and offers a comprehensive investigation of Lefort's intellectual dialogues and debates, his engagement with the most relevant global political events of the past decades, and his impact on current innovations in continental political and social theory.

**Bernard Flynn** is an adjunct faculty at the Graduate and the Undergraduate New School For Research. He has published on contemporary thought, notably *Political Philosophy at the Closure of Metaphysics* (London: Humanities Press, 1992), *The Philosophy of Claude Lefort* (Evanston: Northwestern, 2006) and co-edited *Merleau-Ponty and the Possibilities of Philosophy* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009). Also he has published many articles on contemporary continental philosophy and on the history of philosophy. Currently he is writing a book entitled *The Adventures of the Event*.

**Claudia Hilb** is a Professor in Political Theory at the University of Buenos Aires, and a researcher at the National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (Conicet) in Argentina. She obtained her B.A., Master and DEA in Sociology and Political Studies at the Universities of Paris VIII and Paris III, where she attended Claude Lefort's seminar at the EHESS for several years, and her PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires. Her research is centered on modern political theory, and on theoretical-political problems concerning recent Argentinian political history. She recently published the books *Leo Strauss. El arte de leer* (2005), *Gloria, miedo y vanidad: el rostro plural del hombre hobbesiano* (en colab., 2007), *El político y el científico. Ensayos en homenaje a Juan Carlos Portantiero* (comp., 2009), *Silencio, Cuba. La izquierda democrática frente al régimen de la Revolución Cubana* (2010), and edited a reader on Leo Strauss, *Leo Strauss. El filósofo en la ciudad* (2011).

**Martin Plot** is Associate Professor of Aesthetics and Politics, School of Critical Studies, California Institute of the Arts, USA. His most recent book is titled *Indivisible* (2011). He has also edited and co-edited several books, including most recently (with Enrique Peruzzotti) *Critical Theory and Democracy* (2013).

Visit the event webpage on REDCAT.ORG:  
<http://www.redcat.org/event/claude-lefort>

To request press accommodations, interviews, additional information, media or images, please contact Diana Wyenn at 213 237-2873 or [dwyenn@calarts.edu](mailto:dwyenn@calarts.edu).

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## TICKETS & INFORMATION

### Claude Lefort, Thinker of the Political

Date(s)/Time(s):

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 8:00 pm

Ticketing:

\$10 general (\$8 members; \$5 students)

Seating is general admission and tickets are available for purchase in person at REDCAT Box Office, by phone at 213-237-2800, or online at [redcat.org](http://redcat.org).

REDCAT's Box Office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon until 6 pm or two hours prior to curtain. Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

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## ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a modular theater, a 3,000-square-foot gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit [redcat.org](http://redcat.org).

REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. REDCAT's street address is 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

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## MEDIA CONTACT

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