

References from the second lecture
on Tom McCarthy, *Remainder*

Zadie Smith, “Two Paths for the Novel”

the (often unexamined) credos upon which

Realism is built: the transcendent importance of form, the incantatory power of language to reveal truth, the essential fullness and continuity of the self.

Daniel Defoe, *The Life and Adventures of
Robinson Crusoe* (1719)

Beginning: “I was born in the year
1632, in the city of York, of a good
family, though not of that country,
my father being a foreigner of
Bremen, who settled first at Hull...”

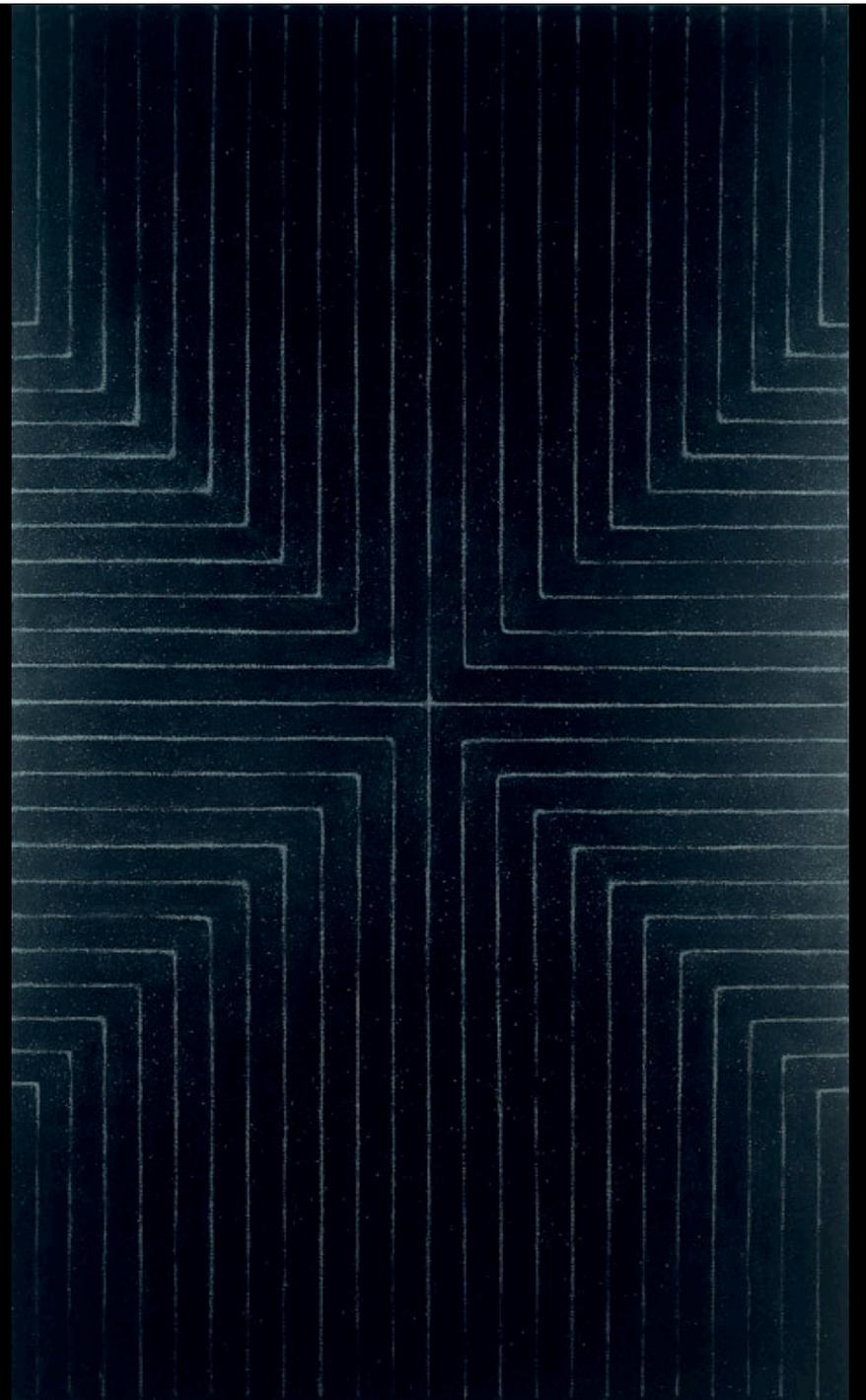
McCarthy in *The Guardian*

Inclined against “liberal-humanist sensibility [that] has always held the literary work to be a form of self-expression, a meticulous sculpting of the thoughts and feelings of an isolated individual who has mastered his or her poetic craft”

McCarthy in LRB

“we’re being given access not to a fully rounded, self-sufficient character’s intimate thoughts and feelings as he travels through a naturalistic world, emoting, developing and so on—but rather to an encounter with structure”

Frank Stella,
Die Fahne Hoch!
(1959)



Jean Baudrillard on the simulacra

Go and organize a fake hold up. Be sure to check that your weapons are harmless, and take the most trustworthy hostage, so that no life is in danger (otherwise you risk committing an offence). Demand ransom, and arrange it so that the operation creates the greatest commotion possible. In brief, stay close to the "truth", so as to test the reaction of the apparatus to a perfect simulation. But you won't succeed: the web of artificial signs will be inextricably mixed up with real elements (a police officer will really shoot on sight; a bank customer will faint and die of a heart attack; they will really turn the phoney ransom over to you). In brief, you will unwittingly find yourself immediately in the real, one of whose functions is precisely to devour every attempt at simulation, to reduce everything to some reality: that's exactly how the established order is, well before institutions and justice come into play.