Discussion Questions (10/16)

Discussion Questions: (submitted by Abe)

1. Stam and Xavier say that “Brazilian cinema displays a paradoxical mix of cultural pride and resentment, mimicry and audacity, austerity and excess, that in sum gives voice to the body and soul of Brazilian culture” (582). How did you see these traits in Terra em Transe and in other works of art we’ve discussed? What is it about Brazil’s formational process that makes the “imperfect” valuable, a form of creativity?

2. Compare Andrade’s “Canibalist Manifesto” and Rocha’s “An Esthetic of Hunger”. How are the approaches to art and culture different in these two texts? How do the ideas of antropofagia and Cinema Novo work together or against each other?

3. In last Tuesday’s reading, “Architecture, Power, and National Identity” Vale talks about forming a national identity internally rather than oppositionally. The initial nationalism that drives independence is oppositional; building a consolidated national identity is a difficult process that must follow. But Salles Gomes points out that in Brazil, “Psychologically, occupied and occupier do not feel what they are: in fact, the latter is a part of us, and it would be sociologically absurd to imagine his expulsion” (611). What are the consequences for the formation of national identity Brazilian culture, and how does this impact the arts?