

Christophe ANNOOT

THIS IS NOT A THEORY

The author of the article, a painter and an engraver, is also the designer of the drawings which adorn the cover of each issue of the *Cahiers de sociologie économique et culturelle* and in some way “illustrate” its contents. In this text, he unfolds the process of his creative work, highlighting the continuous interplay between his reflections on the themes of the *Cahiers* and the building up of the corresponding images.

Dominique FOURNIER

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON EPHEMERAL OBJECTS
AND THE RITUAL OF BULLFIGHTING**

Although bullfighting is frequently and strongly condemned on ethical grounds, it nevertheless represents a highly significant cultural fact for the countries where it is practiced, and an art. The author presents an anthropological study of its construction. He evidences the complexity of the chain of technical operations implied, the key role of the interplay between respect vs interpretation by the torero of highly ritualized rules which refer to a mythical dimension, the ephemeral character of the aesthetic “object” thus produced, the role of the public in its production, and some of the implications of changes in the societal and cultural context.

Marc-Mathieu MÜNCH

AESTHETICS: OBJECT AND CREATION

The “life effect” theory has adopted as its central hypothesis the universality of aesthetic emotion, and it takes a critical stance towards “relativistic” conceptions of aesthetics: beyond the singularities which earmark a work of art as the product of a specific time and location, it represents an “anthropological invariant”: not only in the sense that the

search for aesthetic expression and emotion is common to all human communities, but more specifically in the sense that a piece of art-work produced in a very different and distant context in terms of time and/or space can nevertheless move us deeply (e.g. paleolithic paintings). The theory is illustrated by two examples: the “Venus of Urbino” from Titien, and “L’homme qui plantait des arbres” from Jean Giono.

