Eduardo Cadava will lead a seminar on Walter Benjamin’s “Work of Art” essay. Situating the essay in relation to Marx, Ernst Jünger, and Siegfried Kracauer, the seminar will suggest that the essay is a training manual on how to read historically in moments of danger. It will provide a context for understanding Benjamin’s claim that the essay offers a series of theses on the work of art that can be used as “weapons against fascism” but in a way that cannot be instrumentalized in turn by the Nazi regime. It also will suggest how this text can be used as a resource for doing political work today.

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