



Geography of Music

Powerful shaper of culture



Early California Music

- Shift in 1960s
- Beach Boys
 - ♦ Image of fun loving teenagers
 - ♦ Surfing, fast cars, and girls



Early California Music

The Doors

- ♦ Rhythm & Blues & Drugs
- ♦ Desert and West play a role



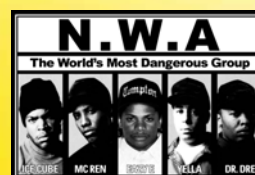
Early California Music

The Eagles

- ♦ Ugh.



Hip Hop & Violence



Music & place redux

- Looking at music and place beyond the local music scene
- How does music make place?

LA Scene c.1980

"Alternative" sound

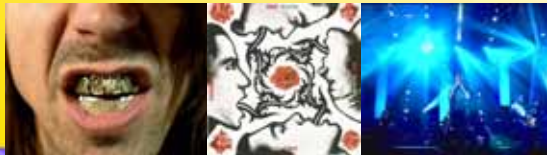
- ♦ Jazz trumpet layered over dirty electric guitars.
- ♦ Twinkling percussion complementing aggressive bass.



Red Hot Chili Peppers

Postmodern music

- ♦ RHCP → Los Angeles
- ♦ Los Angeles → RHCP



Play

Let me **play** with your emotions / For nothing is good unless you play with it
Yeah / Fly on / Fly on, baby

- "Mommy, What's a Funkadelic," Funkadelic 1970



Play

- Postmodernity
- Pastiche
- Rejection of the meta-narrative

A note on lyrics

- Oh... ticky ticky tickita tic tac toe/I know... everybody's Eskimo

- "Warlocks," Stadium Arcadium 2006

- ♦ Not all are intended to be comprehensible!
- ♦ Sometimes a place's name sounds better (or rhymes better)

Traditional dialectic

Beach Boys v. N.W.A

- ♦ 2 versions same city
- ♦ 2 epistemologies



Postmodern L.A.

- Soja's (1996) idea of a heterogeneous city
 - ♦ Technocracy v. low wage work
 - ♦ Rejecting one idea, pushing forth multiple ontologies

Under The Bridge

- Personification of working class LA



Suck My Kiss

- Pastiche
- Utopia/dystopia dialectic?



By The Way

- A narrative?
- Play
- Echo Park to underground
- Flea/café
- Macho Bronco chase



Tell Me Baby

They come from every
state to find
Some dreams were meant
to be declined
Tell the man what did you
have in mind
What have you come to do



Critique

- "Los Angeles is usually seen as peculiarly infertile cultural soil, unable to produce, to this day, any homegrown intelligentsia"

-Mike Davis

Postmodern Music

- Accepting the juxtaposition inherent in being true to one's art while making a lot of money
 - ♦ Fighting structure while utilizing it to create music of capital
- Rejecting a meta-narrative means accepting all narratives.

Place

Foreman – Rap and "Strong local allegiances"

- ♦ Giving voice to the male aggression found in peripheral 'hoods

RHCP *weave* their local identities into the music

- ♦ Not of the ghetto, not of Beverly Hills
- ♦ acknowledges the anger of Compton while not discounting the opulence of the West side

Place

It is rare to hear a straightforward critique of the city in their lyrics

- ♦ Able to create pastiche, interpretive artistry, and to address the totality of this local

All neighborhoods, all themes

- ♦ Rejecting ontology

Place

Conversely postmodern LA produces such a postmodern rock et al. band.

- ♦ RHCP made a career out of pastiche; borrowing and blending elements of rap, rock n' roll, funk, punk, country, and jazz.

Place

Doubtful that this music could be made in any other city...



Ozomatli



Next Time

Urban California

