



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook
p r e s e n t s

Thursday, October 25, 2012

2:30 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

E. Ann Kaplan

“Memory for the Future/the Future for Memory” in John Hillcoat’s *The Road*

John Hillcoat’s *The Road*, made from Cormac McCarthy’s powerful novel, is a study of environmental disaster, traumatic loss, and human caring. In a critical analysis of the film, Kaplan asks questions about the traumatic world spectators are invited to share. Is Hillcoat interested in “memory for the future,” that is, in asking us to remember what we might lose? What does the film offer as regards “the future for memory” once the environment has collapsed? What does it show about the role of memory, gender, and caring in human life as we move into the Anthropocene Era? This talk examines the dramatically evolving discourses about what used to be “landscape” and is now “environment” as part of studying the changing relationship of humans to a natural world that has hitherto sustained us.

E. Ann Kaplan is Distinguished Professor of English and Cultural Analysis and Theory at Stony Brook University, and Director of the Humanities Institute. Her books include *Women in Film: Both Sides of the Camera*, *Women in Film Noir*, *Motherhood and Representation*, *Feminism and Film*, *Trauma and Cinema: Cross-Cultural Explorations*, and *Trauma Culture: The Politics of Terror and Loss in Media and Literature*. She is working on two further book projects: *The Unconscious of Age: Screening Older Women* and *Trauma Future-Tense: Dystopian Imaginaries in Media and Culture*, the latter of which has given rise to today’s lecture.

