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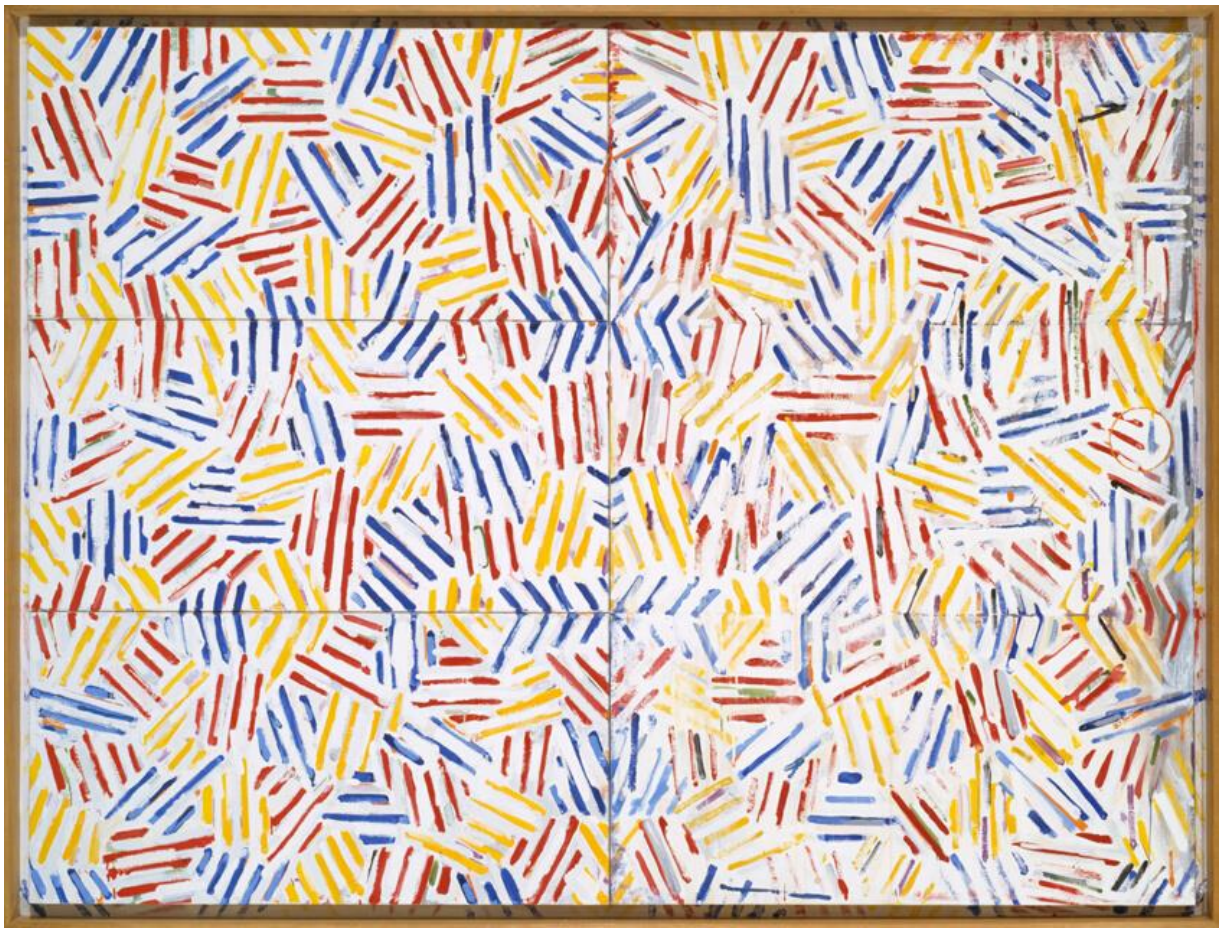
A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry

On (once again) Observing First-time Voters

by Theric Jepson



CORPSE AND MIRROR II, 1974/75. JASPER JOHNS. ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO OPEN ACCESS COLLECTION.

On (once again) Observing First-time Voters

2024

I haven't voted early
perhaps in admission
that for all its ugh
I do not want this election to end.

I remember 2016,
even if now's eighteen-year-olds may not.
I remember then's weeping, then's fear,
then's uncertainty they'd get to vote again.

Now's are more expectant of disaster,
which may mean they accept it.
That they—we—are together ready to give up
and allow the horrors of history to bury us in our beds.

Hard to fight [the abnormal]? Yes.

Harder to stand
to fight again
and again [the normal].

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