

**Motion of May 15**  
**Strike Committee, Ecole des Beaux-Arts**

Wednesday, May 15, 12:00

Why are we prolonging the struggle? What are we fighting against? We are fighting against the class-based University; we want to organize the struggle against all its aspects:

1. We oppose the social discrimination that operates throughout the course of study, from the primary to the higher grades, to the disadvantage of working-class children and poor peasants.

We want to fight against the system of examinations and competitions, principal means of this discrimination.

2. We oppose the content of the teaching and the pedagogical forms in which it is disseminated. Everything is organized so as to ensure that the products of the system acquire neither critical consciousness nor knowledge of social and economic realities.

3. We oppose the role society expects intellectuals to play: to be watchdogs of the system of economic production, to be technocratic managers, to see to it that each person feels very happy with his lot, especially when he is being exploited.

What do these criticisms mean for the school of architecture? For the school of painting and sculpture? It is certainly up to the Commissions to define it precisely, but we can already do so as far as architecture is concerned:

- We want to contest the domination of the curriculum by the profession through the Conseil de l'Ordre and other corporate bodies. We are against the Masters system as a pedagogical method. We are against the conformist ideology disseminated by the system. The teaching of architecture must not solely consist of the repetition of what the master does, to the point where the student is finally a carbon copy.

- We want to fight against the conditions of architectural production, which in fact subordinate it to the interests of public or private developers. How many architects have agreed to carry out large or small Sarcelles? How many architects take into account in the notes they keep on their commissions the conditions of information, hygiene, and worker security on the construction site; and do it in such a way that any developer heeds their appeals? Everyone knows that there are three deaths a day in France in the construction industry.

- We want to contest the content of a curriculum that is particularly conservative, particularly irrational and unscientific, in which impressions and personal habits continue to prevail over objective knowledge.

The ideology of the prix de Rome is still alive.

In short we want to take stock of the real relations between the school and society; we want to fight against its class character.

We have to realize that we cannot fight this fight alone. We must not harbor illusions that the university will be able to establish within its faculties the seeds of real autonomy with respect to bourgeois society as a whole.

The university must fight side by side with the workers, who are the principal

victims of the social discrimination carried out by the system of instruction. The fight against the class-based university must be linked organically to the fight of all workers against the capitalist system of exploitation.

It is necessary for us to engage: to call into question the relations that now govern the profession and the curriculum:

- To challenge the present separation of the E.N.S.B.A. from university studies;
- To refuse to allow any form of preselection in admissions to the school;
- To contest the present system of examinations and competitions;
- To prepare for the workers' struggle;
- To prepare for the struggle against the reform decrees;
- To establish real links with the workers' struggle.

On all these questions, we must have the freest possible debates.

*All teachers must speak out.*

*Organized forms of struggle must be found.*