

Philip Guston Painting of the Courtroom

by Jerry Ratch

They've thrown the painter in the trash, upside down,
no less, his red pajamas and feet sticking up in the air,
with his shoes on. The large red hand of judgment
pointing at him, that gives us direction and law
and shame, gives us a large red headache.

While the head of the KKK stands by
for the next order, ready to mete out
punishment, and smoking a cigar.
They are so efficient, like ex-Nazis.

As they already threw the painter
in the trashcan, yelling out:
Next! Who's next!

