

# 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!*

