

# Being and Art

Aesthetic, Expression, Representation

# What do I need to say about aesthetic?

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If you want to learn more about philosophy of art, there is PHIL 275...

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If you want to learn more about philosophy of art, there is PHIL 275...

I’ll only scratch some part of your curiosity in this speech.

Because art and beauty is hard...

What do I need to say about aesthetic?

Should I start with this guy?

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(He's Kant)



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(and I have not read his work on this ...)



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Four aspects of Kant's theory:

- its freedom from concepts
- its objectivity
- the disinterest of the spectator
- its obligatoriness.



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- its freedom from concepts
- its objectivity
- the disinterest of the spectator
- its obligatoriness.

But I'll not talk about this tonight, as it would go beyond scope. So Kant haters, y'all can take a break.



# What (else) do I need to say about aesthetic?

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## Expression and Representation?

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  - Emotions can be rationalized as the response to stimulus
- Art is representational in understanding and relevance.
  - The picture of dog can represent the dog. But the dog cannot represent the picture of the dog.
- (Communicationists) Art as a form of language to convey emotions
  - Which is different from verbal language
  - Poetry stays somewhere in between both.

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“what the cognitive powers of human understanding and imagination judge applies to an object”

“This is pebble.” (as an instance)



# NOOOOOOOOO KANT

## its freedom from concepts

“what the cognitive powers of human understanding and imagination judge applies to an object”

“This is a beach of pebble.” (with no definite instance)



# NOOOOOOOOO KANT

## its freedom from concepts

“what the cognitive powers of human understanding and imagination judge applies to an object”

When no definite concepts involved, our mental capacity is held as free play. And when this “play” is harmonious, we acquire the experience of pure beauty.



Reading // Benning // Being

<https://vimeo.com/252840859>

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Then wouldn't everybody have their own understanding of the artwork?

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Is aesthetic truly universal?

“Why does the day pass so fast sometime?”

I watch a movie / travel to a new city / read a new book

Will people who have done the same arrive at the same experience?

It seems to me...

It seems to me...

There is always something about you, about who you are, that separates your experience from the others'.

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There is always something about you, about who you are, that separates your experience from the others'.

You start creating your own artwork even before you run into any.



# Discussion Questions

1. Can beauty or aesthetic hold moral evaluations?
2. Which component means most to you when evaluating art: artists / artwork / yourself?
3. Can we give purely objective judgement for artworks?
  - a. Is there objective beauty?
4. How can we derive aesthetic from actions, rather than objects?
  - a. How can non-visual aesthetic interact with our perception?
5. (in reference) Can we say about a movie without watching a movie?
  - a. Do we necessarily need to know about the artist before evaluating their art?
  - b. How much influence from the artist are we willing to allow for it to change our understanding of the artwork? (e.g. artists with bad morality)