

## The State of Aesthetics (London, 23–24 Jun 2011)

London, UK, Jun 23–24, 2011

Diarmuid Costello

THE STATE OF AESTHETICS

23rd and 24th of June, 2011

Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, Institute of Philosophy, London

An international conference sponsored by the AHRC project “Method in Philosophical Aesthetics: The Challenge from the Sciences”, the Institute of Philosophy, the British Society of Aesthetics, the University of Leeds, the University of Nottingham, and the Open University.

### Conference Participants

Diarmuid Costello (Warwick, Philosophy)

Gregory Currie (Nottingham, Philosophy)

Ivan Gaskell (Harvard, History)

Casey Haskins (SUNY Purchase, Philosophy)

Jane Heal (Cambridge, Philosophy)

John Hyman (Oxford, Philosophy)

Matthew Kieran (Leeds, Philosophy)

Michael Lacewing (Heythrop, UCL, Philosophy)

Jerrold Levinson (Maryland, Philosophy)

Derek Matravers (Open University, Philosophy)

Chris McManus (UCL, Psychology and Medical Education)

Aaron Meskin (Leeds, Philosophy)

Bence Nanay (Antwerp and Cambridge, Philosophy)

Matthew Rowe

Chris Tilley (UCL, Anthropology)

Edward Winters

The theme: The State of Aesthetics

What is the value of aesthetic investigation? Our conference invites scholars and art world figures to offer their own assessments, defences and remedies.

A century ago aesthetics was of central concern for philosophers and psychologists alike. For much of the last century, the study of the arts often seemed marginalised, with relatively little cross-talk between aesthetics and areas considered more central to philosophy. By contrast the art world was strongly influenced by philosophically inflected theories of institutions, the text and spectatorship, and yet there was little engagement with Anglo-American aesthetics. There is evidence that matters are looking up. Work on fictionality within literary contexts standardly serves as a resource for work in metaphysics on the nature of fictional objects. Work on the imagination feeds back into the philosophy of mind and metaphysics. There is also a growing list of publica-

tions in aesthetics from such unexpected directions as neuroscience and evolutionary psychology—developments not universally welcomed within the aesthetics community.

The conference will draw together and address these developments asking how philosophical aesthetics might progress. The conference has three themes:

- Aesthetics and philosophy
- Aesthetics and the art world
- Aesthetics and the human sciences

In addition, we will have a panel discussion on teaching aesthetics in art school and other non-philosophical contexts.

Information regarding registration and accommodations is available through the conference website:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/state-of-aesthetics/registration.shtml>

Conference poster:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/54521992/7184-AHRC-Aesthetics-Poster-PRINT#>

Please address any queries to Dr. Margaret Moore  
(M.Moore@leeds.ac.uk).

Reference:

CONF: The State of Aesthetics (London, 23-24 Jun 2011). In: ArtHist.net, May 10, 2011 (accessed May 2, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1360>>.