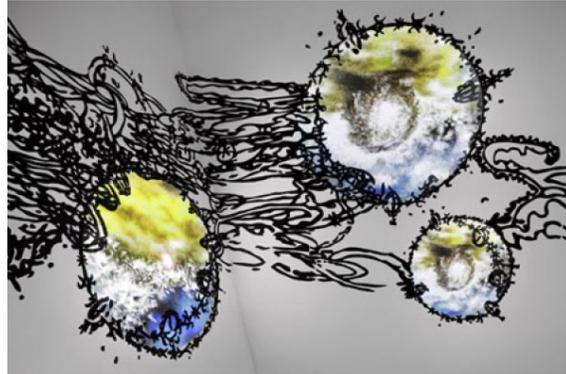


# Phil. 106, The Philosophy of Art. Fall 2023

Professor Tom Leddy. W 3:00-5:45pm in Sweeney Hall 241



Matthew Ritchie "Day One"

Philosophy of Art covers philosophical issues related to the various arts, whether it be painting, literature, music, dance, architecture, photography, film or such popular art forms as comic book art and tattoos. It is closely related to the philosophical discipline of aesthetics, which deals with such concepts as "the beautiful" and "the sublime." Aesthetics also covers the aesthetics of nature and the aesthetics of everyday life, which are also closely related to the aesthetics of art.

In this class we will discuss such questions as: What is art? What is the function of art? How important is it? What is beauty? What is aesthetic experience? What role does aesthetics play in art? What role does expression play in art? What is the relation between art and morality? Can art give us knowledge? How do we evaluate art? Are there any principles of taste? What is interpretation and what is the meaning of a work of art? What is the relation between the aesthetics of art and the aesthetics of nature? What is its relation to the aesthetics of everyday life? How central is aesthetics to philosophy as a whole? What role, if any, can aesthetics play in solving our current world crises?

We will be looking at what relatively recent philosophers (1890 to today) have had to say about art and aesthetics. Particular emphasis will be placed on current debates amongst philosophers of art and aesthetics.

The class will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion and student presentations and will be illustrated with slides and other media. The class is usually half philosophy majors and half arts majors.

Required Textbook [Prices are those currently found on Amazon.com. Spartan book prices may be different.]

*Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology (Blackwell Philosophy Anthologies)* 2nd Edition, ed. by Stephanie Ross, Steven M. Cahn, Sandra L. Shapshay. \$20 rental to \$48 new. 2020. ISBN-10 : 1118948327, ISBN-13 : 978-1118948323

Recommended:

Leddy, Thomas. *The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: The Aesthetics of Everyday Life*. 2012. Broadview Press. \$22 electronic through Broadview Press. \$38 in paperback. ISBN-10 : 155111478X ISBN-13 : 978-1551114781