

**SOME ADDITIONAL (POSSIBLY) INTERESTING VIEWS ON “BEAUTY”**  
*KDH lecture notes on Kant*

**Background to Formalism & Exegesis on Beauty**

- Kant: *Critique of Judgment* (1790) (*Norton Anthology of Theory & Criticism*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 499)
  - focuses on spectator's response
    - not creation of art
  - Art (i.e., artificial) not better than nature (or vice versa)
    - both provide freedom
  - premise:
    - autonomy of art
    - universality of aesthetic judgment
      - statements of aesthetic beauty are based on visual
      - not having to do w/individual's preferences
      - no physical appeal of aesthetics
        - \* formal properties of object influence judgments of beauty
        - \* not is physical & material properties
        - \* Ex: yellow flowers in field (personally distasteful b/c allergies) vs. painting of yellow flowers in field (formally beautiful)
          - + sensual responses = subjective & unacceptable
        - \* **form over matter – SEINFELD!! (a show about nothing)**
      - therefore: all will agree
    - accepted definitions in human understanding
      - table vs. pretty table
      - definitive vs. subjective
  - **beautiful object reveals purposiveness w/out purpose**
    - no concrete purpose!!
    - therefore: aesthetic provides experience of **freedom w/in physical world**
    - but universal b/c all humans experience this freedom from & within physical world
    - beauty becomes a universal ideal perceived and not actually witnessed.
      - Ex: field of flowers painting = freedom from physical & mind's recognition of the object itself
        - \* “beauty” recognized by all but not defined
        - \* **separates from the individual & makes experience communal**