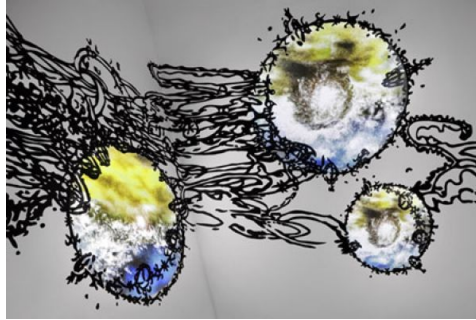


# Phil. 106: The Philosophy of Art

## Continental Aesthetics, Romanticism to Now

### Fall 2019

Professor Tom Leddy. Dept. of Philosophy. Thurs. 6:00 pm-8:45 pm, SH 241



Matthew Ritchie "Day One"

Philosophy of Art covers philosophical issues related to the various arts, whether it be performance art, 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" and, less traditionally, with such ideas as "cute" and "pretty." 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 did the concept of art evolve in history? 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? Are there any principles of taste? 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?

We will be looking at what several philosophers (as well as some figures in other disciplines) have had to say about art and aesthetics. **There are two very distinct modern traditions in aesthetics: Analytic and Continental. This semester, the main focus of the class will be on Continental Aesthetics. The Continental tradition in aesthetics, and in philosophy generally, is mainly associated with Europe, although there are also many Continental Philosophers in English-speaking countries as well. We will look at readings by such thinkers as Kant, Hegel, Schelling, Nietzsche, Benjamin, Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Freud, Marcuse, Adorno, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Gadamer, Habermas, Ricouer, Barthes, Foucault, Derrida, Lyotard, Cixoux, and Baudrillard.** I will be supplementing this text with material on Continental Aesthetics that has emerged after 2001 including **Ranci re and Zizek.** **This course will serve not only as a Philosophy of Art course but also as an introduction to Continental Philosophy.**

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

*Continental Aesthetics: Romanticism to Postmodernism: An Anthology* 1st Edition  
by Richard Kearney and David M. Rasmussen (Editor) Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (2001)

Also see: "Aesthetics in Continental Philosophy" <https://www.iep.utm.edu/aes-cont/>