Conference Program

Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study

Beauty

McKenna Hall
University of Notre Dame
January 21-23, 2010

Thursday, January 21

First Session:

8:00am      Registration
8:30am      Welcome
9:00am      ROBERT P. LANGLANDS (School of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study) Theorems and Theories
10:00am     Coffee Break
10:15am     MARIO LIVIO (Space Telescope Science Institute) Symmetry: From the Selection of Mates to the Laws of Nature
11:15am     Coffee Break
11:30am     DIETER WANDSCHNEIDER (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) In which sense can we speak of beauty in nature, both in its laws and its entities?
12:30pm     Lunch

Second Session:

2:30pm      CHRISTIAN ILLIES (Universität Bamberg, Germany) Can beauty in organisms be reduced to the mechanism of sexual selection and the latter to natural selection, or is this reversed? Does sexual selection point to the recognition of beauty by organisms?
3:30pm      Coffee Break
3:45pm      FRANCESCO PELLIZZI (Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University) “Beauty and the Beast”: Notes on cross-cultural aesthetics
4:45pm      Coffee Break
5:00pm      BJARNE SODE FUNCH (Roskilde University, Denmark) Which features of human nature are responsible for the genesis of art as a universal phenomenon of human culture?
6:00pm      Dinner
Friday, January 22

First Session:

9:00am  HOLGER BONUS (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany) What is the function of art in the economy of cultures?
10:00am  Coffee Break
10:15am  PETER LANDAU (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany) Why has art so frequently been a focus in the legal system?
11:15am  Coffee Break
11:30am  ELAINE SCARRY (Harvard University) Are there any common aesthetic principles acknowledged by most aesthetic theories?
12:30pm  Lunch

Second Session:

2:30pm  VITTORIO HÖSLE (University of Notre Dame) What are the driving principles behind the historical evolution of aesthetic theories from ancient civilizations to the present?
3:30pm  Coffee Break
3:45pm  MARK W ROCHE (University of Notre Dame) Within modern art, the concept opposite to the beautiful, the ugly, has gained a strange prestige—what is its function in enhancing the expressivity of art?
4:45pm  Coffee Break
5:00pm  MAXIM KANTOR (Moscow, Russia) What constitutes beauty in the visual arts?
6:00pm  Reception
7:00pm  Adjournment

Saturday, January 23

First Session:

9:00am  CLAUS-STEFFEN MAHNKOPF (University of Music and Theatre “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig, Germany) Beauty in Music
10:00am  Coffee Break
10:15am  MARY KINZIE (Northwestern University) What constitutes beauty in literature?
11:15am  Coffee Break
11:30am  DUDLEY ANDREW (Yale University) What constitutes beauty in film?
12:30pm  Lunch

Second Session:

2:30pm  PRADEEP DHILLON (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) Does beauty lie in the eye of the beholder? A Kantian Response
3:30pm  Coffee Break
3:45pm  CYRIL I. O’REGAN (University of Notre Dame) Why are beauty and art theologically relevant?
4:45pm  Summary and Discussion
6:00pm  Adjournment