Conference on Beauty

January 21–23, 2010
McKenna Hall
(Center for Continuing Education)
University of Notre Dame

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS (in order of presentation)

Robert P. Langlands
School of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study
Mathematical Beauty: A Historically Conditioned Personal View

Marin Livio
Space Telescope Science Institute
Symmetry: From the Selection of Mates to the Laws of Nature

Dieter Wandschneider
RWTH Aachen University, Germany
In which sense can we speak of beauty in nature, both in its laws and its entities?

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 it reversed? Does sexual selection point to the recognition of beauty by organisms?

Francesco Pellizzari
Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University
What are the differences of aesthetic experience among cultures and are there any invariants?

Bjarne S. Funch
Københavns Universitet, Denmark
Which features of human nature are responsible for the genesis of art as a universal phenomenon of human culture?

Elaine Scarry
Harvard University
Are there any common aesthetic principles acknowledged by most aesthetic theories?

Vittorio Hösle
University of Notre Dame
What are the driving principles behind the historical evolution of aesthetic theories from ancient civilizations to the present?

Mark 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?

Maxim Kantor
Moscow, Russia
What constitutes beauty in the visual arts?

Claus-Steffen Mahnkopf
University of Music and Theatre “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig, Germany
What constitutes beauty in music?

Mary Kinzie
Northeastern University
What constitutes beauty in literature?

Dudley Andrew
Yale University
What constitutes beauty in film?

Pradeep Dhillon
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Does beauty lie in the eye of the beholder? A Kantian response

Cyril O’Regan
University of Notre Dame
Why are beauty and art theologically relevant?

This conference is free to Notre Dame students, faculty, and staff, except for meals.

For details on times and to register, please see: sri.nd.edu/institute-for-advanced-study or phone (574) 631-1303.