



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

Conference on Beauty

January 21–23, 2010

McKenna Hall
(Center for Continuing Education)

University of Notre Dame

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) 631-1305.



SPEAKERS AND TOPICS (in order of presentation)

Robert P. Langlands

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

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

Francesco Pellizzi

*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

Roskilde University, Denmark
Which features of human nature are
responsible for the genesis of art as a
universal phenomenon of human culture?

Holger Bonus

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany
What is the function of art in the
economy of cultures?

Peter Landau

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany
Why has art so frequently been a focus
in the legal system?

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*
Beauty in Music

Mary Kinzie

Northwestern 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?