

## **Syllabus: The Philosophy of Art: What Is Beauty?**

### **Class 1, April 8: Introduction: Art: Rudiments, Definitions and Perspectives.**

- Establishing a groundwork for the Course.
- Plato: Archetypes and [The Republic](#)
- C.G. Jung: the four functions of consciousness. Thinking, Feeling, Sensing, Intuition.
- Definition of Art: Denis Dutton.
- Commentary on Roger Scruton's book: [Beauty](#)

### **Class 2, April 15: Arthur Danto's Conception of Art: [What Art Is](#)**

- Modernism
- Wakeful Dreams
- The Body in Philosophy and Art: Embodiment
- The Art World

### **Class 3, April 22: Kant's Critique of Judgment, Painting: Joel Babb and Matthew Wong**

### **Class 4, April 29: Open Forum: Students Invited to Select/Talk about a Work of Art Embodying Genius.**

### **Class 5, May 6: Cinema-The Theme: The Pathos of Beauty: Heidegger and Terrence Malick, a video of Malick films, and a Clip from [The Thin Red Line](#)**

### **Session 6, Aesthetics in Daily Life: Artisinal Expressions of Care.**

- Care activities related to the material world, including respecting, cherishing, and repairing objects and making objects that require craftsmanship skills.

### **Course Materials: Reading**

- There are no required readings. Links to material will be placed on the Course Website before class.
- A list of suggested books and articles appears in this document below.
- Additional material will be shared electronically as the Course progresses.
- Lectures and active discussions take place in class.

### **Suggested Books, Articles**

#### **Books:**

- A History of Pictures, David Hockney & Martin Gayford, Thames and Hudson, 2016, London.
- Nature and Culture, The Art of Joel Babb, University Press of New England, 2012.
- What Art is, Arthur C. Danto, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2013.
- Beauty, Roger Scruton, Oxford, 2009
- Only a Promise of Happiness: The Place of Beauty in the World of Art, Alexander Nehamas, 2010, Princeton.
- On Beauty, Umberto Eco. A History of a Western Idea, 2010, Maclehorse Press, London, 2004
- Terrence Malick, Filmmaker and Philosopher, Robert Sinnerbrink, Bloomsbury, 2019.

- Seeing Like an Artist, Lincoln Perry, Godine, 2022.
- Aesthetics of Care: Practice in Everyday Life, Yuriko Saito, Bloomsbury, 2022.

#### **Articles/Links**

- On Matthew Wong's Life in Light and Shadow, Raffi Khatchadourian, the New Yorker, May 9, 2022.
- <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/05/16/matthew-wongs-life-in-light-and-shadow>
- Matthew Wong's Obituary:
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/21/obituaries/matthew-wong-dead.html>
- The Creation of the Modern Art Market, Louis Menand, The New Yorker, July 4, 2022.
- <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/07/04/modern-art-and-the-esteem-machine-hugh-eakin-picassos-war>

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