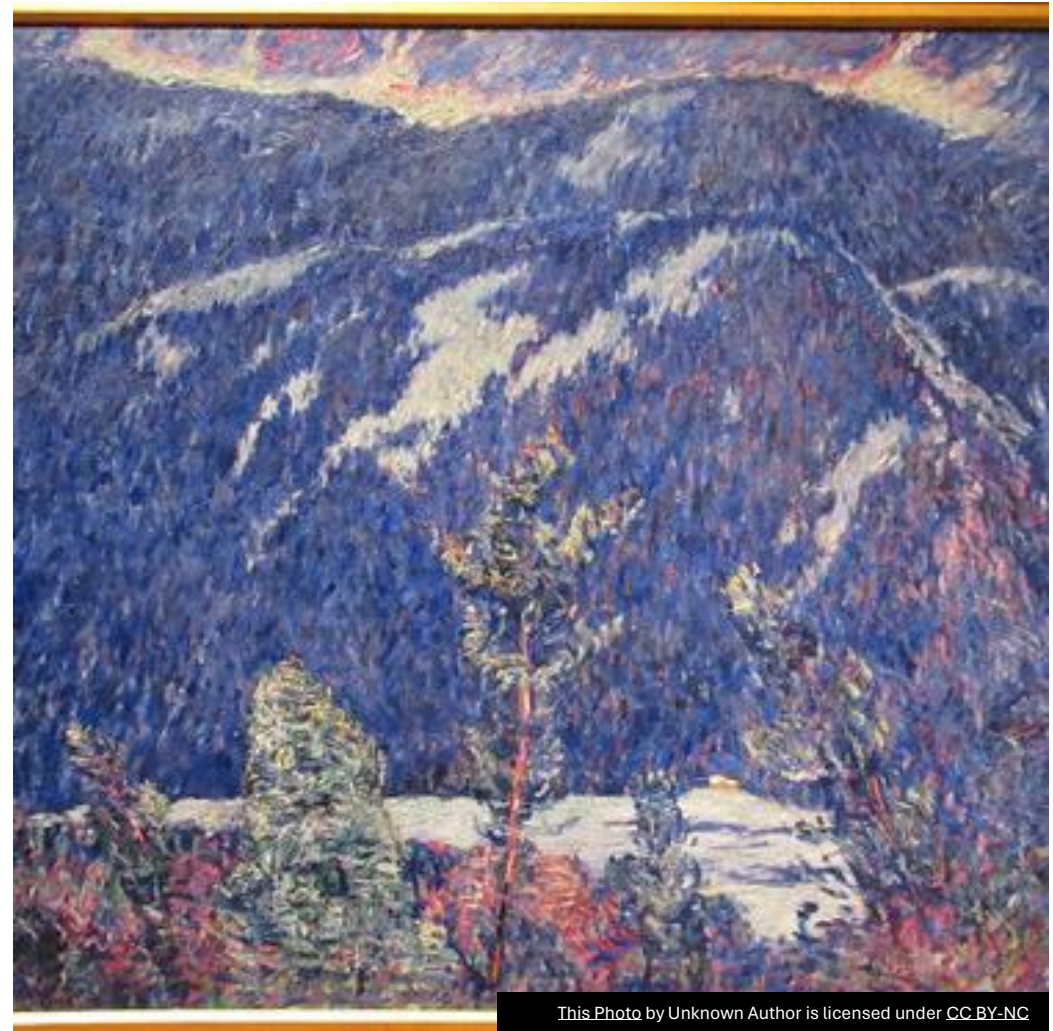


# Philosophy of Art: What is Beauty?

Philosophy of Art is About Art  
as a Means of Knowing ...

“Little Visions of the Great Intangible”

Marsden Hartley



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# Artists are Philosophers of Perception

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“Ultimately art is trying to see things that others do not see.” Trevor Paglen

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Artists can read the vibe of an era that may not yet be evident to common knowledge.

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They create art that manifest the geist/spirit of the times-conscious/unconscious.

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They see hidden and express potentialities emerging from a misdirected or benign cultural pattern.

# Four Functions: Consciousness –C. G. Jung

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Thinking-rational- an impersonal, objective mental process that brings given presentations into conceptual connection.

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Feeling-rational –mental process that imparts a subjective tone in judging criteria for accepting or rejecting things (values) that matter.

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Sensation-irrational-psychological function that mediates the sense perception of physical stimuli (what is) by the sensory organs. Since it is an elementary inclination, it is not subject to rational laws

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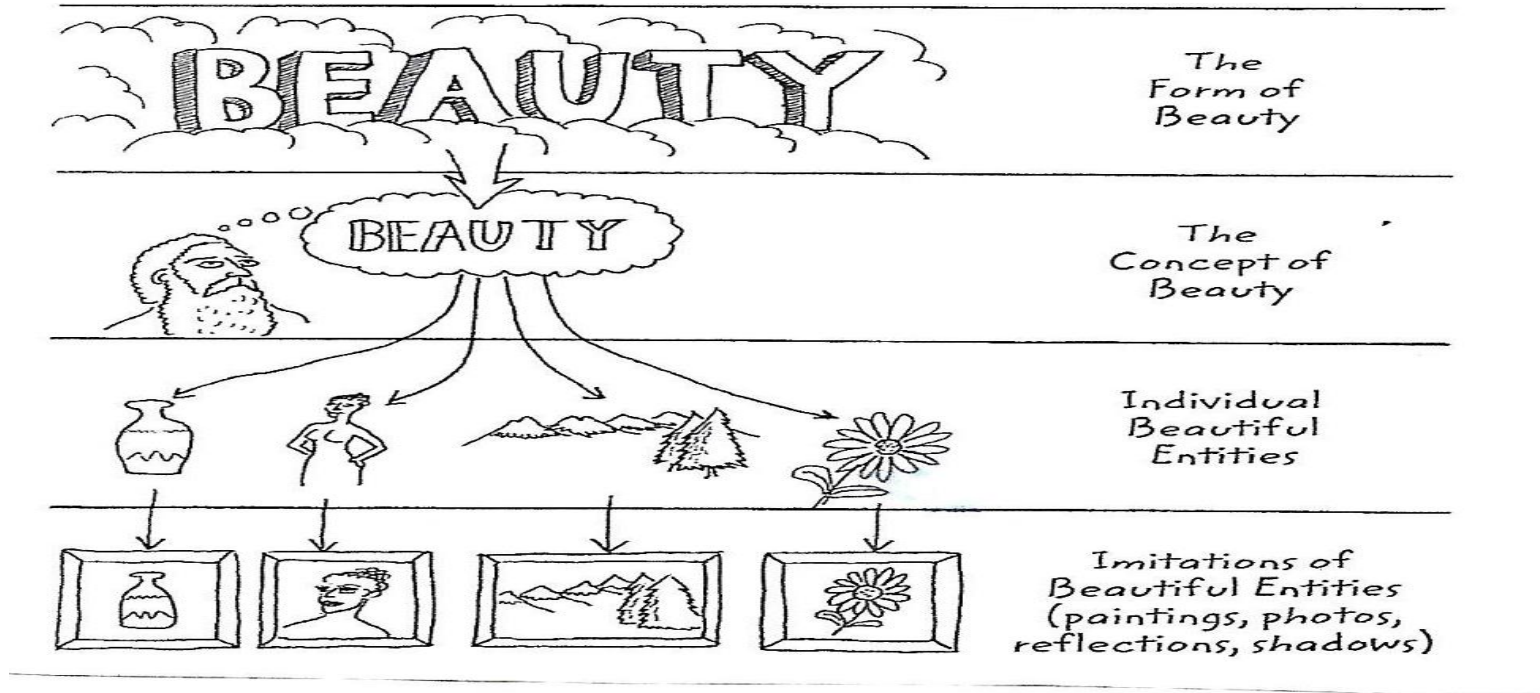
Intuition-irrational- psychological function that mediates perception in an unconscious way. Content presents itself whole and complete without explanation about the origin of its existence.

Aesthetics:  
Philosopher Denis  
Dutton identified  
six attributes of  
aesthetics:

1. Expertise or virtuosity. Humans cultivate, recognize, and admire artistic skills.
2. Nonutilitarian pleasure. People enjoy art for art's sake and do not demand that it keep them warm or put food on the table.
3. Style. Artists usually attempt to create objects and performances that satisfy the rules of composition in a recognizable style.
4. Criticism. People make a point of judging, appreciating, and interpreting works of art.
5. Imitation. With a few important exceptions like abstract painting, works of art simulate experiences of the world.
6. Special focus. Art is set aside from ordinary life and made a dramatic focus of experience.

# Archetypes

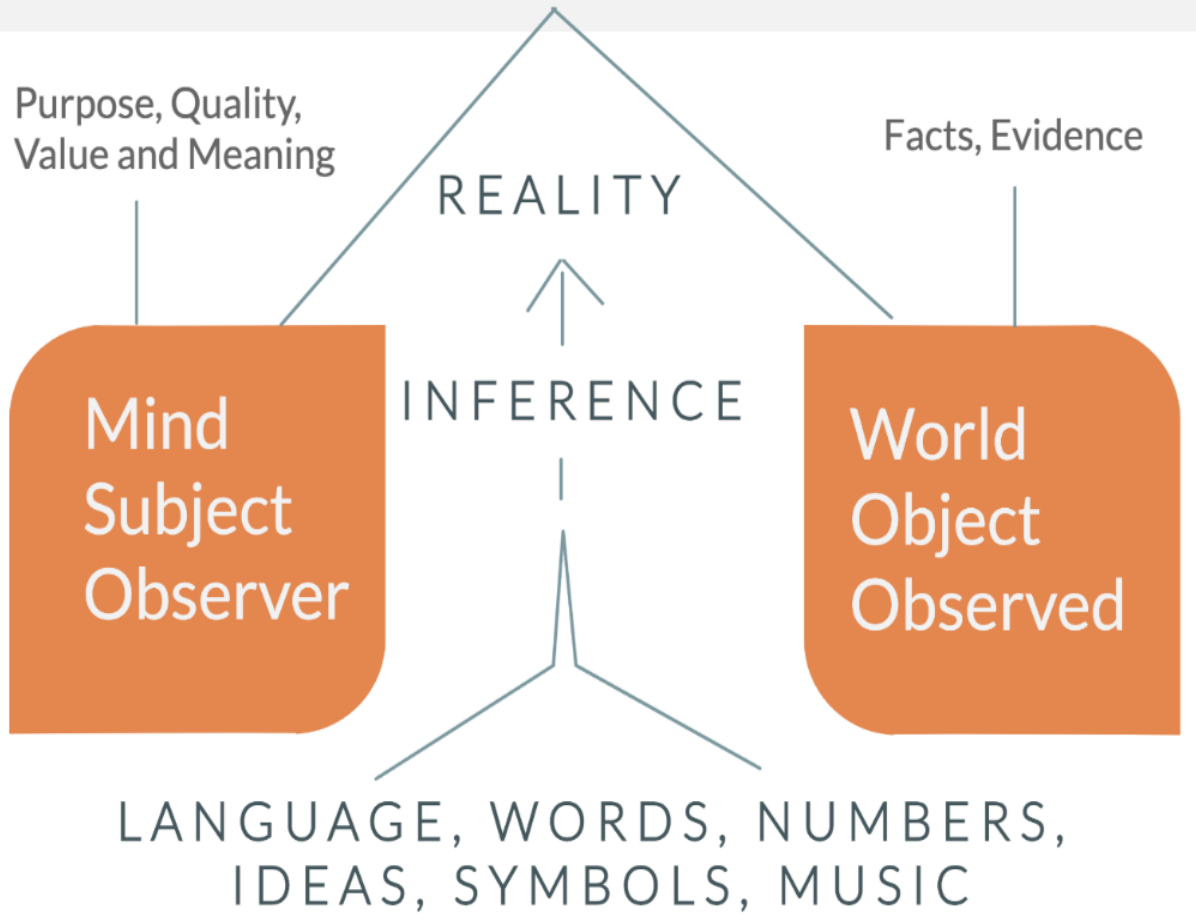
- **ar·che·type** (Random House) **ar·che·type** (är'kĭ-tĭp') *noun: the original pattern or model from which all things of the same kind are copied or on which they are based; a model or first form: prototype. From the Greek, archetypos, an imprint, first impression. Archetype: Beauty.*



Schema

# Transcendent Realm

METAPHYSICAL (NOUMENAL)



Existential Realm

# This is not Roger Scruton's Office




# The Death of Socrates-jean louis david







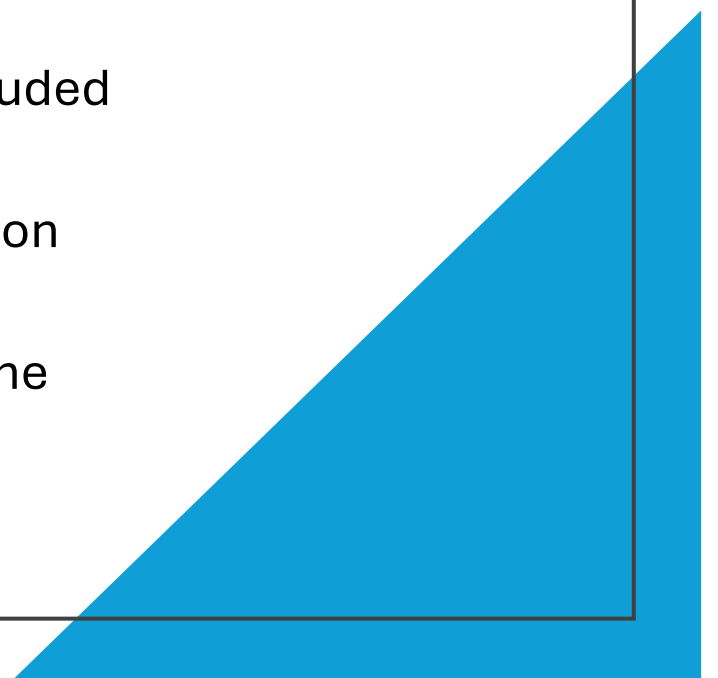
## Scurton asks Questions:

- How do we explain the importance of beauty in our lives?
  - Should we lament the fact that beauty is vanishing from our world?
  - If beauty is vanishing, as writers such as Nietzsche have suggested, is it because goodness and beauty diverge so that an immoral thing can be considered beautiful?
  - How is beauty related to truth and goodness?
- 

# Scruton: Beauty-major points

- Beauty is a real and universal value anchored in our rational nature.
- It is indispensable to shaping our recognition of the world.
- Why should we lament that beauty is vanishing from our world?
- Is it because beauty has lost its place as an ultimate value to pursue for its own sake?
- What explains the breakup in the platonic constellation that included truth, goodness, and beauty as a unity?
- Is it because we use utilitarian logic to guide us in making common decisions?

“With the good, the true, and the useful, man is earnest, but with the beautiful, he plays.” Friedrich Schiller



# Utilitarian Logic: a short description

- Utilitarian logic compares one scenario with another, anticipating results and their consequences; some results are short-term, and others are way down the road.
- Actions are good if they produce favorable overall outcomes and meet the goal of maximizing "utility."
- The thinking process uses abstract criteria impartially to determine an overall result based on utility, using numbers to justify the calculation.
- In reaching an optimum conclusion, confusion between means and ends often occurs.

## Scruton Says: Why?

- The aesthetic way of life, in which beauty is pursued for its supreme value, has been criticized even by Plato for lacking impracticality and inauthenticity. Copies: the Republic
- If we are to affirm our faith in reason, then we recognize that our reasons must be anchored in the true and the good. But does the same go for beauty?
- No- Beauty's status is questionable in the way that truth and goodness are not because of its subversive and seductive nature.
- Why? Because myths, stories, and rituals illustrate the difficulties encountered by any philosophy that places beauty on the same metaphysical plane as truth to plant in the heart of being.
- There is a destructive character of beauty that gives myths acceptance and gives them credibility.

“A man finds his shipwrecks and tells himself the necessary stories” -Stephan Dunn, Odessey's Secret. Page 32.