

AESTHETICS

MEANING, CONCEPT, NATURE AND SCOPE OF AESTHETICS

Aesthetics is the philosophical branch of inquiry concerned with beauty, art and perception. It means the pleasant, positive or artful appearance of a person or a thing. It explains how people perceive access the meaning, importance and purpose of art. Aesthetics examines what makes something beautiful, sublime, disgusting, funny, entertaining, pretentious, harmonious, boring or tragic. Judgments Aesthetics clearly rely on our ability to discriminate at a sensory level.

MEANING OF AESTHETICS

Aesthetics is the branch of philosophy concerned with the nature, creation and appreciation of art, beauty and good taste. It has also been defined as "critical reflection on art, culture and nature". The word esthetics" is derived from the Greek word "aisthetikos", meaning of sense perception", which in turn was derived from "aisthanomai" meaning "I perceive, feel, sense. As such, it is used in modern English as a noun, in the sense that something can appeal to the senses. Since the meaning of the word relies upon sensory perception, its definition fluid, varying through time and it is subjective, differing between people and cultures.

While defining aesthetics, philosophers make distinction between aesthesis autophues (natural sensation) and aesthesis epistemone (acquired sensation). We may say that aesthetics is both the study of aesthetic objects and subjective reactions of observers, readers, or audiences to the work of art. Aesthetics is necessarily interdisciplinary and may be interpretive, prescriptive, descriptive, or a combination of these.

More scientifically, it is defined as the study of sensory or sensory-r emotional values, sometimes called judgments of sentiment and taste and as critical reflection on art, culture and nature. In psychological terminology, aesthetics may be called as the study of the psychological responses to beauty and artistic experiences.

CONCEPT OF AESTHETIC

Aesthetics is the name of the philosophical study of art and natural beauty. Introduced into the philosophical lexicon during the Eighteenth Century, the term 'aesthetic' has come to be used to designate, among other things, a kind of object, a kind of judgment, a kind of attitude, a kind of experience, and a kind of value.

Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten, a German philosopher and educator coined the term "aesthetics" in 1735 and established this discipline as a distinct field of philosophical inquiry. Baumgarten contended that it is a mistake to exclude sensations and perceptions from knowledge, and that sensation and perceptions provide an equally valid conception of reality as logic. Baumgarten believed the aesthetic value of a thing could be determined by its ability to produce vivid experiences in its audience. That's why aesthetics have many dimensions and its concept is wide. Following are the various dimensions of aesthetics.

The Aesthetic Attitude: There are two parts to the aesthetic attitude: the aesthetic part, and the attitude part. Here, an attitude is a certain state of mind. In particular, it is a way of approaching

experiences or orienting oneself toward the world. It may help to think someone with an optimistic attitude and has a tendency to see things in a positive light. With the aesthetic attitude, the thought is not that there are certain people who generally see things, so to speak, in an aesthetic light, but more aligned with what is meant by request that someone “have a more optimistic attitude” or “take a more [positive attitude]” about a given circumstance.

Aesthetic Value: This is the value that an object, event or state of affairs (most paradigmatically an art work) possesses in virtue of its capacity to elicit pleasure (positive value) displeasure (negative value) when appreciated or experienced aesthetically.

Aesthetic Objects: An object is aesthetic, so far as it is beautiful. The beautiful is defined as that which possesses the properties of harmony or proportion among the parts, fullness of being, and radiance or luminosity. Philosophy adds that the beautiful or the aesthetic must attract the soul with an impetuous force drawing the soul out of itself toward the beautiful which has become for it a compelling reality as a pure desire. This is because God is Beauty, and His Appearance involves the compelling necessity of impetuous movement toward Him.

Aesthetic Experience: The aesthetic experience is a pleasurable and desirable experience, an experience which gives life worth and meaning. Any experience which makes an organism feel good and encourages it to continue or return to the experience which gives it pleasure is aesthetic experience. The aesthetic quality of an experience is the amount of concentration involved in the experience. The aesthetic experience is characterized by a concentration originating in the organism causing it to perceive its environment with a heightened or more vivid perception.

Aesthetic Judgment: Aesthetic judgments are judgments about the aesthetic status of objects, judgments about their beauty or ugliness. Aesthetic judgments, mean the appreciation of any object, not necessarily an art object, and Aesthetic judgments, means the appreciation or criticism of a work of art.

The concept of Aesthetic may be made more cleared by the following definitions of aesthetics, given by different scholars.

DEFINITIONS OF AESTHETICS

According to **Barnett Newman**, "Aesthetics is for the artist According to Britannica. Aesthetics' means "the philosophical study of beauty and taste'. To simplify, aesthetic is the "why" when you think something looks nice.

In words of **Alfred North Whitehead**, "Art is the imposing of a pattern on experience, and aesthetic enjoyment is recognition of the pattern."

Daniel Bell says "Art is the aesthetic ordering of experience to express meanings in symbolic terms."

NATURE OF AESTHETICS

- 1. Aesthetics is Perceptual:** Aesthetics is the philosophical study of beauty and taste. The term stems from the Greek word "aisthetikos," meaning "of sense perception." It is

related to the study of sensory values. Aesthetics refers to the visual attractiveness. Good aesthetics of a product leads to its better usability, user experience or pleasure.

2. **Aesthetics is Axiological:** Axiology is the science that (the human values and their relationships that motivate human behavior and convey meaning to human life) Axiology inspects two types of values: ethics and aesthetics. Aesthetics deals with the values of fascination and harmony. So when Aesthetics is compared with axiology it becomes the science of nature, art forms and manifestations with both beautiful and terrible. This science studies human creative attitude to reality and its experiences
3. **Aesthetics is a Philosophical Science:** Aesthetics is a philosophical science concerned with the most general principle of aesthetic cognition of the work through any human activity, especially which formulates, confirms and perfects the result of this cognition, according to the laws of beautiful. Aesthetic is sometimes understood a direct 'compound of philosophy' as one of the philosophical sciences besides ontology, axiology, ethics and others. Sometimes, it is conceived as an 'independent science' detached from philosophy and employing only several categories and methods of philosophy. The boundary between them is not strictly fixed.
4. **Aesthetics have many Branches:** General aesthetics has many special branches like aesthetic of theatre, aesthetics of environment, aesthetic of fashion, aesthetics of manners and many more.
5. **Aesthetics is Interdisciplinary:** The philosopher and educator John Dewey (1934) discussed the role of aesthetics as a tool for understanding and provided a framework for an interdisciplinary approach. He described the aesthetic as "the clarified and intensified a development of traits that belong to every normally complete experience." He went further to describe the aesthetic sense as inherently connected with the experience of making.
6. **Aesthetics is Interpretive:** Interpretation implies the conscious task of making sense out of a piece of writing. An aesthetic interpretation expresses a particular emotional or experiential understanding most often used in reference to a poem, or piece of literature, and may also apply to a work of visual art, or performance.
7. **Aesthetics is Descriptive:** Some aesthetic terms, like "tragic dramatic", "grotesque", "epic", "lyric" "Gothic" "Baroque", and 'Cubist', are descriptive; they do not imply any value judgement but they tell us something about the kind of work and its global structure.
8. **Aesthetics is Objective as well as Subjective:** It is a current opinion that aesthetics was originally an objective theory of beauty and that since modern times it has become subjective one. This dilemma and controversy can be formulated as we call a thing beautiful and aesthetic, do we ascribe to it a quality it possesses by itself or one which it does not possess but which we confer upon it we usually grant this quality because we like the object, "we find it pleasing, so is the subjectivity. It means all things whether ugly or beautiful are aesthetically neutral." When Plato said "there are things which are beautiful always and by themselves, he talks about objective aesthetics" and when David

Humes wrote that "the beauty of things existed in mind which contemplates them, aesthetics become subjective."

SCOPE OF AESTHETICS

Scope is the set of boundaries that define the extent of a project. It is the range of a subject covered by a discipline, programme, discussion etc. As a philosophical discipline, the scope of aesthetics is very wide and broad.

1. **Applicable to all:** The study of aesthetic is applicable to all age groups and all levels of readiness simply because aesthetic is act in re the study of how humans relate and give meaning to a particular type 6. I of phenomenon (art) in their environment.
2. **It concerns both-beauty and Art:** Aesthetic concerns both, beauty and Art. Some thinkers considered aesthetic a synonym for the philosophy of art. Aesthetic involves sensory contemplation and the knowledgeable appreciation of art.
3. **Subject Matter of Aesthetics:** Aesthetics as a philosophical discipline is connected directly with philosophy through the problems it solves. It is related to philosophy through its subject matter, categorical apparatus and methods. But the subject matter of aesthetics differs from the subject matter of philosophical studies. The latter focus on existence as a whole and practically all aspects of the ay by da life of man, while aesthetics is able to follow only aesthetic and artistic values in the life of man and nature. Its subject-matter is, therefore, much narrower and for this reason much closer to visual reality than a subject matter of philosophy.
4. **Special Branches of Aesthetics:** From general Aesthetics a philosophical discipline may special branches of aesthetics have olved. For example, Aesthetics of environment, Aesthetics of fashion, esthetics of theatre etc. are its important branches. Baumgarten who introduced the term "aesthetics" (1735) has divided the subject- matter of aesthetics into three sections-the first is devoted to the study them, esheth the development of these main problems and the range of issues fbeauty in things and thinking, the second-to the basic laws of the rts and the third-to aesthetic signs in art. Classical aesthetics dealt that somehow or other related to them or from them.
5. **Relationship with Psychology:** There exists a deep relationship between aesthetics and psychology. Its roots are found in oval. There is between stimulus and reaction variables. The relation extends from or beauty asking questions analogous to those asked in psychology, for example, how the aesthetic perception of man changes under the influence of various stimuli and the like, to the complex employment of psychological t of a project methods, predominantly experimental, Comparative Studies: programs Aestheticians compare historical developments with theoretical approaches to the art of many periods. They study the variations of art in relation to their physical, social and cultural environments. They also use psychology to understand how people see, hear, imagine, learn- aesthetic is and act in relation to the materials and problems of art.

6. **Interdisciplinary:** One independent branch of aesthetics 3 has developed recently out of exact and experimental aesthetics called concerns Interdisciplinary aesthetics. It co-opted with other scholarly disciplines synonym and relied on them for knowledge, categories and methods. In this way, aesthetics has laid the foundation of interdisciplinary co-operation. It is not ordinary interdisciplinary, the employment of several humanities It concentrates on the integration of humanities, natural, mathematic and technical sciences along with practical disciplines like medicines with aesthetics.

In this way, the scope of aesthetics as a discipline is increasing day by day and it is expanding its area.

