

Public Lecture

Jerrold Levinson

“Beauty’s Diversity: Retrospect and Prospect”

21/09/ 2016

17:15-19:00 pm

Universität Luzern, Frohburgstrasse 3, 6002 Luzern, Room 3.B52

In my essay "Beauty Is Not One" I defended a strong diversity thesis about visual beauty. In my lecture today I will first recall in outline the main points of that defense. I will then proceed to support the thesis further by narrowing my focus to three of the main varieties of visual beauty, to wit, natural beauty, artistic beauty, and human beauty. Or otherwise put, the beauty of nature (and especially landscapes), the beauty of artworks (and especially paintings), and the beauty of human beings (and especially women). My aim in focusing on these three varieties of visual beauty will be to expand and deepen my phenomenological characterization of them so as to reinforce the thesis of their fundamental difference from one another.

Jerrold Levinson (PhD, Michigan) is Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy. His main philosophical interest is aesthetics, with secondary interests in metaphysics, ethics, and philosophy of mind. Among the arts he is particularly concerned with philosophical problems arising in connection with music, film, and literature. Levinson has written extensively on the definition of art, expression in music, emotional response to art, the nature of literary interpretation, and the ontology of artworks. Topics of recent interest include intrinsic value, the nature of humor, sexual morality, jazz improvisation, the expressive specificity of jazz, the ethics of jokes, the analysis of artistic achievement, and the varieties of visual beauty.

Levinson has been visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, the University of London, the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), the Université de Rennes (France), the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), the Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal) and the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana (Switzerland). Levinson is Past President of the American Society for Aesthetics, 2001-2003, was general editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics* (Oxford UP, 2003), and was an invited fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University in September 2007. During academic year 2008-2009 Levinson was Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Kent in Canterbury (England), and during academic year 2010-2011 Levinson held an International Francqui Chair in the Institute of Philosophy of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). In 2010 Levinson was awarded the International Prize of the Società Italiana d'Estetica. Professor Levinson is also an Affiliate Faculty Member of the School of Music at the University of Maryland.

The public lecture takes place within the scope of the workshop with Jerrold Levinson “Beauty: Unity versus Variety”.

Program

Workshop with Jerrold Levinson

Beauty: Unity versus Variety

21/09/2016

17:15-19:00 "Beauty's Diversity: Retrospect and Prospect"
Public lecture of *Jerrold Levinson* (University of Maryland, USA)
Room 3.B52

From 19:00 Dinner at the Restaurant *Weisses Schloss* (Moosstrasse 7, 6003 Luzern)

22/09/2016

09:00-9:30 Address of welcome and introduction of participants
Room 4.A05

9:30-10:30 "Levinson's Variety Thesis"
Kai-Uwe Hoffmann (Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, Germany)
Room 4.A05

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break at the Cafeteria of the University of Lucerne

11:00-12:00 "Beauty as aesthetic property and the relevance of unity thesis"
Matilde Carrasco Barranco (University of Murcia, Spain)
Room 4.A05

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break at the Cafeteria of the University of Lucerne

13:30-14:30 "Kant's unity thesis and the phenomenological differences in aesthetic experiences"
Larissa Berger (University of Siegen, Germany)
Room 3.A05

14:30-15:30 "The Norms of Beauty"
Iris Laner (University of Tübingen, Germany)
Room 3.A05

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break at the Cafeteria of the University of Lucerne

16:00-17:00 "Empirical Aesthetics Speaks in Favor of the Multiplicity Thesis"
Joerg Fingerhut (Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany)
Room 3.A05

17:00-17:30 Recapitulation/ Final Discussion Day 1
Room 3.A05

From 18:00 Dinner at the Restaurant *Bellini Giardino* (Murbacherstrasse 4, 6002 Luzern)

23/09/2016

- 09:00-10:00 "Beauty conceived as a Formal Concept"
Fabian Borchers (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Room 4.B51
- 10:00-11:00 "Human Beauty as Evidence against the Unity Thesis?"
Lisa Schmalzried (University of Lucerne, Switzerland)
Room 4.B51
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break at the Cafeteria of the University of Lucerne
- 11:30-12:30 Final Discussion
Room 4.B51
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch at the Cafeteria of the University of Lucerne
- From 13:30 (Optional) Cruise on the Lake of Lucerne