



Società Italiana d'Estetica

Convegno "Ambienti estetici"

7 settembre 2020

Abstracts

h 15:10 – **Paolo D'Angelo**, Università Roma Tre

Philosophers and Natural Beauty

My speech will offer a very short sketch of Western thought on natural beauty. Starting from Antiquity, in which the idea of beauty was related more to nature than to art, we will pass to Middle Ages, where the belief in the divine origin of nature leads to the doctrine of the beautifulness of the entire universe. The effects of the scientific revolution on the conception of natural beauty will be further discussed, together with the birth of the modern idea of landscape. The last part of the presentation will be devoted to the neglect of natural beauty in post-Kantian philosophy of the 19th and 20th century, to conclude with the return of philosophical interest in natural beauty through the development of environmental aesthetics in English-speaking countries and of *ökologische Ästhetik* in Germany.

h 16:00 – **Tim Ingold**, University of Aberdeen

Perception, imagination and the world between

At the heart of this lecture is an attempt to heal the division between the worlds of reality and of the imagination, or fact and fantasy, that has haunted the discourses of modernity for generations. Alternative approaches to the psychology of perception, respectively cognitive and ecological, have only reinforced this division: the former by treating the perceived world as a product of the imagination, vis-à-vis an objectively given reality; the latter by aligning perception with the disclosure of a real-world environment, vis-à-vis a free-wheeling imagination. Both approaches, however, assume a world already laid out, awaiting the attention of the perceiver. I shall argue, instead, for a mode of attention that waits upon the world, joining with the processes of its formation. To imagine, I suggest, is not to dwell in appearances rather than reality, but to participate from within, through perception and action, in the very appearing of things.

h 16:50 – **Emily Brady**, Texas A&M University

Climate Change Leaves Nothing Untouched: Rethinking Aesthetics in Light of Global Climate Change

What kinds of questions and issues does the global crisis of climate change (GCC) present to aesthetics, and how will they challenge the field? As a philosophical issue, global climate change has been conceived largely as a problem in moral and political philosophy, where discussion has focused on questions of responsibility, justice, and rights. This lecture outlines a different but linked agenda for research on GCC and aesthetics, and argues that there are a set of issues which are especially pressing: (1) neglected aesthetic environments, or aesthetic qualities, places, and things that have received little attention from philosophers, for example, ice, weather and climate, marine systems; (2) negative aesthetic values of environment, given the catastrophic effects of GCC, for example, landscapes of devastation – forest fires, drought, flooding, as well as losses in non-charismatic more-than-human life; (3) temporality, future generations, and losses in aesthetic value; (4) conflicts between aesthetic values, ethics, and climate justice. These issues do not exhaust rethinking the field of aesthetics in light of GCC, but they are the main focus of the talk.