



# Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology

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From Plato's *Ion* to works by contemporary philosophers, this anthology showcases classic texts to illuminate the development of philosophical thought about art and the aesthetic. This volume is the most comprehensive collection of readings on aesthetics and the philosophy of art currently available.

- Brings together the most significant writings in aesthetics and philosophy of art from the past 2500 years
- Each section includes a useful introductory essay which provides an overview of developments in the field
- Broken down into three sections: Historical Sources, Modern Theories, and Contemporary Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
- Thorough, systematic, and flexible, including two alternative tables of contents (historical and topical); an ideal textbook and guide to the field

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“Steven Cahn and Aaron Meskin have put together an unrivalled collection of great work in philosophical aesthetics, encompassing historical sources ranging from Plato to Shaftesbury, modern theories from Schiller to Gadamer, and more recent work covering all the central areas in contemporary aesthetics and philosophy of art. I thoroughly recommend it.”

*Peter Goldie, University of Manchester*

“The go-to book for classics in aesthetics from Plato and Aristotle to Adorno and Walton. Balanced and comprehensive, each chapter selected with a keen eye for bringing out enduring themes, this volume is a landmark achievement.”

*Dominic McIver Lopes, University of British Columbia*

#### From the Back Cover

The appreciation of art and the pursuit of beauty are fundamental elements of human life, and for almost as long as we have engaged in philosophical inquiry we have been theorizing about aesthetic matters. Covering nearly 2,500 years of theory and analysis, this anthology offers the most comprehensive collection of readings on aesthetics and philosophy of art currently available. From Plato's *Ion* to work by contemporary philosophers of art, *Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology* showcases classic texts that speak for themselves in showing the development of philosophical thought about art and the aesthetic. Thorough, systematic, and flexible, this volume is an ideal guide to the field and makes an excellent textbook for a variety of courses in philosophical aesthetics.

#### About the Author

**Steven M. Cahn** is Professor of Philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is the author of nine books, including *Fate, Logic, and Time*, *Saints and Scamps: Ethics in Academia, revised edition*, *Puzzles and Perplexities, second edition*, and *God, Reason, and Religion*. He has also edited or co-edited some thirty volumes, including *Classics of Western Philosophy*, now in its seventh edition.

**Aaron Meskin** is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Leeds. His publications on aesthetics have appeared in the *British Journal of Aesthetics*, the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* and a number of anthologies. He is also aesthetics editor for the online journal *Philosophy Compass* (Wiley-Blackwell).

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**Jerry Rivera:**

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**Philip Martin:**

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