

In Defense of Empirical Aesthetics and Artistic Beauty

Joerg Fingerhut – Berlin School of Mind & Brain - Humboldt-University, Berlin

In this paper I will tackle Alva Noë's criticism of empirical aesthetics and his dismissal of its focus on preference and beauty judgments by highlighting the role artistic beauty might play in our engagement with art. I will present a series of studies that aim to show that beauty judgments have to be considered more differentially and can be seen as tracking different values relevant also for our engagement with art as has e.g. been proposed by Levinson (2011). Noë's criticism might therefore be too general, especially regarding the potential engagement with categories of art that artistic beauty judgment might be an indicator of.
