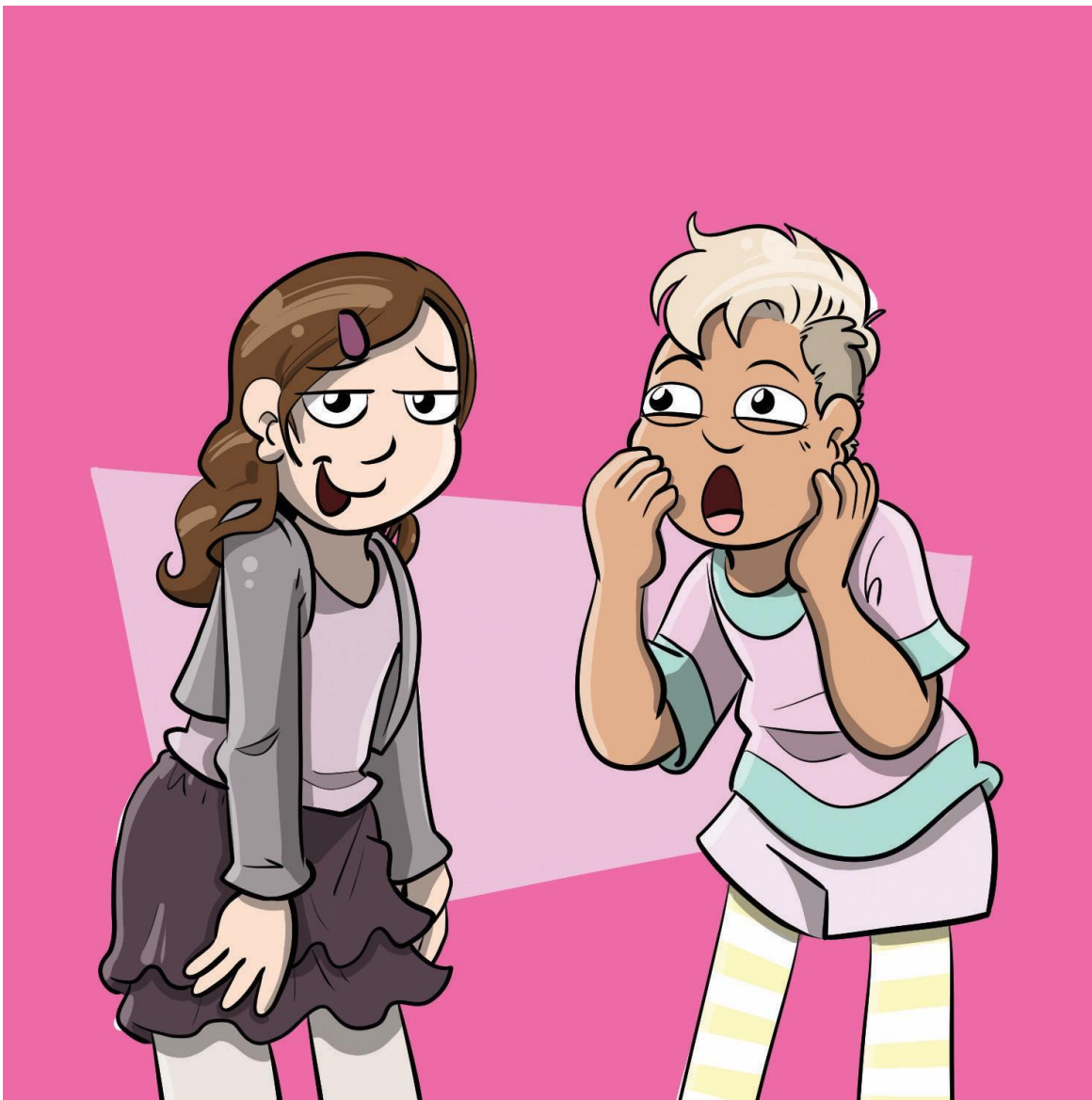


American Society for Aesthetics
Rocky Mountain Division

39th Annual Meeting

July 7–9, 2023

Santa Fe, New Mexico



Assigned Male
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FRIDAY, JULY 7

ASA Updates and Announcements

Palace A: 8:30–8:55 a.m.

Speaker: Julie C. Van Camp, Secretary-Treasurer & Executive Director, American Society for Aesthetics

Session 1

Panel 1: Community, Adversity, and Meaning

Palace A: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Chair: James R. Fromm, New Mexico State University

Speakers: Matthew Williams-Wyant, Volunteer State Community College
“Aesthetic Adversity and the Ecological Generation of Meaning”

Raul F. Prezas, Lamar University

Paul R. Shockley, Stephen F. Austin University

“A Stranger in One's Own Community: Iterations of Ritual Desecration and Reverse Ritual Purification in the Arts”

Henry Wright, Baylor University

J. Lenore Wright (she/her), Baylor University

“A Phenomenology of Street Art: Unpacking Street Art's Relationship to the Art World”

Panel 2: Narrative

Palace B: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Chair: Erich Hatala Matthes, Wellesley College

Speakers: James R. Fromm, New Mexico State University
“Affect and Its Effects: The Un(der)narrated in Narratives”

James Harold, Mount Holyoke College

“Writing Other People's Stories: On the Value of Participatory Literature”

Panel 3: Aesthetics of Games and Agential Arts

Rivera A: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Chair: Montaque Reynolds, Saint Louis University

Speakers: Gil Morejón (he/him), Independent Scholar
“Mechanical Dynamism, Difficulty Curves, and Open-World Design in Modern Video Games”

Samuel Filby, Northwestern University

“Difficulty, Agency, and Storytelling: On FromSoftware's Dark Souls”

Alexandre Saden, University of California, Riverside

“Fated Deaths: Counterfactuality and Aesthetic Judgement in Agential Mediums”

Panel 4: Invited Symposium — Philosophy of Comedy

Rivera B: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Chair: Evan Malone, Lone Star College

Speakers: Elizabeth Cantalamessa, University of Miami

George Kassimis, University at Albany

Break: 10:30 –11:00 a.m.

Session 2

Panel 5: Author Meets Critics Panel on *Drawing the Line: What to Do with the Work of Immoral Artists from Museums to the Movies*

Palace A: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Elizabeth Scarbrough, Florida International University

Critics: Angela Sun, Washington and Lee University
Kenneth Walden, Dartmouth College

Author: Erich Hatala Matthes, Wellesley College

Panel 6: Artistic Style and Process

Palace B: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: James Mock, University of Central Oklahoma

Speakers: Spencer Wertz, Texas Christian University
“Is the Artistic Process Mental or Muscular?”

Spencer Ivy, University of Utah
“Expertise Isn’t Flying, It’s Falling with Style: The Diagnostic Function of Style for Skill”

Ana Van Liedekerke, KU Leuven/Yale University
“Agency of Constitutional Style: Close Reading the U.S. Constitution”

Panel 7: Nature Aesthetics I

Rivera A: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Antony Aumann, Northern Michigan University

Speakers: Kaeleigh Damico, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
“Beautiful Disaster? Ugly Nature and Natural Disasters”

James Dow, Hendrix College
“Enacting Nature’s Value”

Panel 8: Photography and AI

Rivera B: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Evan Malone, Lone Star College

Speakers: Macalester Bell, Bryn Mawr College
“Photographs as Natural Symbols”

Joy Webb, University of Colorado, Boulder
“The Impoverished Aesthetic Experience: AI-generated Art’s Implied Author”

Matthew Garite, Wake Forest University
Francisco Gallegos, Wake Forest University
“A.I., Speech Acts, and Encounters: Toward an Aesthetics of Language Generation”

Lunch on your own: 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Session 3

Panel 9: Author Meets Critics Session on *Dewey and the Aesthetic Unconscious: The Vital Depths of Experience*

Palace A: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Jeremy Killian, University of Memphis

Critics: Vincent Colapietro, Pennsylvania State University
Alfred Frankowski, Southern Illinois University

Author: Bethany Henning, Xavier University

Panel 10: Nature Aesthetics II

Palace B: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: James Dow, Hendrix College

Speakers: Sandra Shapshay, Hunter College, City University of New York
“Aesthetic Appreciation and the Intrinsic Value of Nature”

Eliza Starbuck Little, Auburn University
“Beauvoir on Nature, or Beauty and Sublimity in Las Vegas”

Antony Aumann, Northern Michigan University
“Kierkegaard on Natural and Artistic Beauty”

Panel 11: Aesthetic Judgment, Discipline, and Agency

Rivera A: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Speakers: Tyler A. Cosmer, Binghamton University
“Kant’s Aesthetic Judgment and Self-Knowledge”

Sherri Irvin, University of Oklahoma
Sheila Lintott, Bucknell University
“Aesthetic Discipline”

Cheryl Frazier (she/her), Auburn University
Jeremy Fried, Auburn University
“Left Behind: Anti-Fatness, Photography, and Aesthetic Agency”

Panel 12: Comedy and Tragedy

Rivera B: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Aaron Meskin, University of Georgia

Speakers: Eric Jasper, University of Memphis
“Laughing at the Insurrection: The Intersection of Visual Humor and Christian Nationalist Propaganda on Truth Social”

Brandon Polite, Knox College
Mary Beth Willard, Weber State University
“Stand-up Comedy and the Aesthetics of Revealing and Concealing”

Karan Dhingra, City University of New York, Graduate Centre
Sukhvinder Shahi, City University of New York, Graduate Centre
“Bites and Scratches: The Paradox of Tragedy and Rasa”

Session 4

The Manuel Davenport Keynote Address

Palace A: 4:00–5:15 p.m.

Chair: Antony Aumann, Northern Michigan University

Speaker: Nick Riggle, University of San Diego
“Putting Aesthetic Communitarianism to Work”

Palace A: 5:15–6:15 p.m. Reception

Open to all registered participants: wine, beer, and hors d’oeuvres served.

Funding for this reception was made possible by the generosity of St. John’s College and an anonymous donor.

Dinner on your own.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Session 5

Panel 13: Author Meets Critics Session on *Eugene O’Neill’s Philosophy of Difficult Theatre: Pity, Fear, and Forgiveness*

Palace A: 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Chair: Michael Lucas, California Polytechnic State University

Critics: James R. Hamilton, Kansas State University
David Saltz, University of Georgia

Author: Jeremy Killian, University of Memphis

Panel 14: Philosophy of Film

Palace B: 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Chair: Evan Malone, Lone Star College

Speakers: Jeanette Bicknell, Independent Scholar
“*Unforgiven* and the Problem of Redress”

Conall Cash, University of Melbourne
“Why Walter White Had To Be Killed: Life and Aesthetic Experience in *Breaking Bad*”

Panel 15: Aesthetics of Place

Rivera A: 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Chair: Antony Auman, Northern Michigan University

Speakers: Elizabeth Scarbrough, Florida International University
“Alone, Together: The Aesthetic Importance of Community Movie Theaters as Third Places”

Aaron Meskin, University of Georgia
"Going Out: A Core Aesthetic Activity"

Break: 10:00–10:30 a.m.

Session 6

Panel 16: Beauty

Palace A: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Chair: Jeremy Killian, University of Memphis

Speakers: Tom Alexander, Southern Illinois University
"The Becoming of the Beautiful and Becoming Beauty: Plato vs. Plotinus"

Joan Whitman Hoff, Lock Haven University
"On 'The Inner Landscape of Beauty'"

Panel 17: Invited Symposium — Writing and Publishing in Aesthetics

Palace B: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Chair: Antony Aumann, Northern Michigan University

Speakers: Jeanette Bicknell, Independent Scholar
Sherri Irvin, University of Oklahoma
Aaron Meskin, University of Georgia
Sandra Shapshay, Hunter College, City University of New York

Panel 18: Philosophy of Fiction

Rivera A: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Chair: Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Speakers: Zoe Luo, University of British Columbia
"Relative Fictional Truth"

Jonathan Weinberg, University of Arizona
"Sincere Fictional Desires"

Joshua Spencer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Chris Tillman, University of Manitoba
"Creature Features"

Panel 19: Music, Emotion, and Imagination

Rivera B: 10:30–12:00 p.m.

Chair: Evan Malone, Lone Star College

Speakers: Eva Dadlez, University of Central Oklahoma
Laura Sizer, Mount Holyoke College
"Sad Bangers and Emotional Mash-Ups: Affective Dissonance and Catharsis"

Montaque Reynolds, Saint Louis University
"Love and Wonder in Country Music"

Gabriella LaRose, University of Arizona
"Celebrating a Murderer: Imaginative Resistance in Traditional Murder Ballads"

Business Lunch Meeting

Lamy Room: 12:15–2:00 p.m.

Lunch is served.

All registered participants are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome and approval of 2022 minutes.

Presentation of the Oga Po'geh Prize

Recipient: Juan Carlos Gonzalez (University of California - San Diego), "Kant, Vasconcelos, and the Role of Aesthetics in Early 20th Century Mexican Politics"

Presented by: Jeremy Killian (Memphis) and Joan Whitman Hoff (Lock Haven University)

Presentation of Irene H. Chayes Travel Grant Awards (Supplemented by The Center for Philosophical Studies, Lamar University, Dr. Arthur Stewart, Director)

Presentation of Best Graduate Student Essay Prizes, Center for Philosophical Studies

Presented by: James Mock (University of Central Oklahoma)

Irene H. Chayes Travel Grant Recipients: Wendy Bustamante (Texas A&M), Logan Canada-Johnson (University of Southern California), Kaeleigh Damico (University of Tennessee - Knoxville), Gil Morejon (Independent Scholar), Spencer Ivy (University of Utah), Juan Carlos Gonzalez (University of California - San Diego), Sukhvinder Shahi (CUNY - Graduate Center), and Karan Dhingra (CUNY - Graduate Center)

Best Graduate Student Essay in Philosophy Prize Recipients: Chenya Bu (University of Texas), Kaeleigh Damico (University of Tennessee - Knoxville), Juan Carlos Gonzalez (University of California - San Diego), Emma Heflin (University of Utah), Spencer Ivy (University of Utah), Sukhvinder Shahi and Karan Dhingra (CUNY Graduate Center)

Session 7

Panel 20: Aesthetics and Ethics I

Palace A: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Jeremy Killian, University of Memphis

Speakers: Kyle James McNew, Oregon State University
"The Lilithian Framework"

Raphael Sassower, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
"The Carceral Afterlife of Slavery"

Panel 21: Southwestern Aesthetics

Palace B: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Jeanette Bicknell, Independent Scholar

Speakers: Michael Lucas, California Polytechnic State University
"Surface, Time, Care: Materiality, Temporality, and Aesthetics in Two Vernacular Building Traditions"

Jack Wheeler-Barajas, University of Colorado Denver
"Building Bridges through Aesthetics: Mary Colter and the Southwest"

John Samson, Texas Tech University

“Mabel Dodge Luhan’s Lorenzo in Taos: Pursuing an Indigenous American Aesthetic”

Panel 22: Invited Symposium — Queer Aesthetics

Rivera A: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Speakers: Nicholas Whittaker, City University of New York Graduate Center
Bailey Szustak (she/they), University of Illinois, Chicago
Carrie Shanafelt, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Panel 23: Art History and Art Criticism

Rivera B: 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Chair: James Mock, University of Central Oklahoma

Speakers: David Conter, Huron University College, Western University
“Counterfactuals and Art Historical Thinking”

Anna Kawalec, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
“The Role of Cultural Biography in Reading a Work of Art”

Emma Heflin, University of Utah
“Descending the Ladder: The Platonic Aesthetics of Simone Weil”

Session 8

The Michael Manson Keynote Presentation by the Visiting Artist

Palace A: 3:45–5:00 p.m.

Chair: Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Speaker: Sophie Labelle, Visiting Artist
“A Trans Cartoonist’s Journey: Finding Empowrment and Belonging Through Art”

Dinner on your own.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Session 9

Panel 24: Author Meets Critics Session on *Philosophy of Comics: An Introduction*

Palace A: 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Chair: Aaron Meskin, University of Georgia

Critics: Roy Cook, University of Minnesota
Hannah Kim, Macalester College

Authors: Sam Cowling, Denison University
Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Panel 25: Art and Emotion

Palace B: 8:30–10:00 a.m.
Chair: Jeremy Killian, University of Memphis

Speakers: Logan Canada-Johnson, University of Southern California
Sara Protasi, University of Puget Sound
“You and Me, Same!': Reflections on the Philosophy of Envy in Do The Right Thing”

Jung Kwon, California State University - Dominguez Hills
“Aesthetic Sublime as the Catalyst of Compassion: from Contemplation to Engagement”

Panel 26: Dance and Athletics

Rivera A: 8:30–10:00 a.m.
Chair: James R. Fromm, New Mexico State University

Speakers: Carlo Caballero, University of Colorado
“Virtual Powers: Susanne Langer and Ballet”

Rona Cohen, Tel Aviv University
“Making Sense of/in Dance”

Wendy Bustamante, Texas A&M University
“Somaesthetics and Tragedy: Spectacle in Sport, Aristotle’s Aesthetics, and the Athlete”

Panel 27: Aesthetics and Ethics II

Rivera B: 8:30–10:00 a.m.
Chair: Elizabeth Scarbrough, Florida International University

Speakers: Pierce Alexander Marks, Independent Scholar
“Reuniting Ethics and Aesthetics: the Medieval Implications of Buck-Passing Accounts of Value”

Evan Malone, Lone Star College
“The Sound of Silencing: The Ethics of Actual Intentionalism”

Tim Gould, Metropolitan State University of Denver
“Apocalypse Now and Then: Wordsworth, Marx, and Linguistic Ideologies”

Break: 10:00–10:30 a.m.

Session 10

Panel 28: Mexican and Chicax Aesthetics

Palace A: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Chair: Joan Whitman Hoff, Lock Haven University

Speakers: Denise Meda-Lambro, Texas A&M University
“Dual Processes of Chicax Aesthetic Expressions: Disruptions and Communal Creations”

Juan Carlos Gonzalez, University of California, San Diego
“Kant, Vasconcelos, and the Role of Aesthetics in Early 20th Century Mexican Politics”
Oga Pogeh Prize Winner

Panel 29: History of Aesthetics

Palace B: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Bethany Henning, Xavier University

Speakers: James Mock, University of Central Oklahoma
“William James's Aesthetics”

Norman Arthur Fischer, Kent State University
“Georg Lukacs' Aesthetic Realism”

Panel 30: Philosophy of Music

Rivera A: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Wesley D. Cray, Independent Scholar

Speakers: Chenyu Bu, University of Texas, Austin
“Reviving Musical Platonism”

William Day, Le Moyne College
“Hearing Between the Lines: Jazz's Democratic Esotericism”

Panel 31: Art, Attitudes, and Answers

Rivera B: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Chair: Evan Malone, Lone Star College

Speakers: Richard Lee, University of Arkansas
“Caring about Arting”

Emily Lemmon, University of Iowa
“Aesthetic Answers to Persistent Philosophical Questions”

2023 RMDASA Officers

Antony Aumann, President
Wesley (Ley) Cray, Vice-President
Evan Malone, Secretary
Jeremy Killian, Past President

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American Society for Aesthetics
Irene H. Chayes Fund
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The Center for Philosophical Studies, Lamar University, Arthur Stewart, Director
Anonymous Donor

Policies on Discrimination, Harassment, and Respectful Behavior

The ASA Ombudsperson, Jeanette Bicknell, will be present throughout the meeting and is available to meet informally with anyone at the meeting. The [ASA policies](#) on discrimination, harassment, and respectful behavior will be in effect for this meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Our conference is annually held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a region that is still recognized as O'gah'poh geh Owingeh, meaning "White Shell Water Place," by the Tewa people. This region was inhabited for thousands of years by the communities of the Northern and Southern Tewa, and this area is richly described in the oral traditions of the Nambe Pueblo, the Diné, Cochiti, Tao, and Hopi Pueblos. The Santa Fe area was colonized by the Spanish in the 17th Century, and this colonization resulted in the displacement and subjugation of these indigenous people groups.

As a conference, we acknowledge this indigenous and colonial history, and we pledge allyship to the peoples and traditions colonial practices have harmed and violently displaced. The Rocky Mountain Division of the American Society for Aesthetics will strive to perpetuate the stories of the indigenous people who call Santa Fe their ancestral home, and we see acknowledgement of these realities as a first step toward equity for these peoples.