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"Aesthetic Disillusionment: Environment, Ethics, Art"

Foster, Cheryl

Foster, Cheryl. "Aesthetic Disillusionment: Environment, Ethics, Art." *Environmental Values* 1, no. 3, (1992): 205–215. doi:10.3197/096327192776680052 .

What happens when an object you take to be beautiful or aesthetically pleasing, no longer appears beautiful or pleasing when you learn something new about it? Cheryl Foster is assuming a situation in which there is no direct change in the perceptual features of the object, and that what one learns is not the location of some new surface property but rather a bit of non-perceptual information. She classifies episodes of dampened appreciation under the heading 'aesthetic disillusionment,' and explores the relationship between such episodes and the broader issue of ethical constraints on aesthetic activity and appreciation. Does it make sense to say that one should not, or ought not, take pleasure in certain objects or events? Yes, but in a very particular, almost ecological way. The subsequent discussion focuses on ethical constraints as they operate on the aesthetic appreciation of objects and events within the natural environment.

— Text from The White Horse Press website

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