



Multimedia Library Collection:

Brady, Emily, "Don't Eat the Daisies: Disinterestedness and the Situated Aesthetic"

Brady, Emily. "Don't Eat the Daisies: Disinterestedness and the Situated Aesthetic." *Environmental Values* 7, no. 1 (1998): 97–114. doi:10.3197/096327198129341492 .

In debates about nature conservation, aesthetic appreciation is typically understood in terms of valuing nature as an amenity, something that we value for the pleasure it provides. In this paper I argue that this position, what I call the hedonistic model, rests on a misunderstanding of aesthetic appreciation. To support this claim I put forward an alternative model based on disinterestedness, and I defend disinterestedness against mistaken interpretations of it. Properly understood, disinterestedness defines a standpoint which precludes self-interest and utility, and it does not entail a passive subject abstracted from who they are. This standpoint is compatible with a 'situated aesthetic' in which appreciation of aesthetic qualities is grounded in an embedded subject who is sensitive to the context and narrative of the object. The alternative model provides a conception of aesthetic value which distinguishes it from amenity value, and it also defines a non-instrumental approach that offers the opportunity for enhanced appreciation and attention to nature's value.

— Article abstract from [The White Horse Press](#) website

Republished with permission. All rights reserved. © 1998 The White Horse Press

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_7no.1_brady_emily.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV706.html>
- The White Horse Press
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327198129341492>
- <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV706.html>