

Aesthetic predicates: a hybrid dispositional account

abstract:

This paper explores the possibility of developing a hybrid version of dispositional theories of aesthetic values. On such a theory, uses of aesthetic predicates would express relational second-order dispositional properties. If the theory is not absolutist, it will allow for the relativity of aesthetic values. But it will be objected to on the grounds that it fails to explain disagreement among subjects who do not have the same responses in the right conditions. This paper explores the possibility of adapting recent proposals of hybrid expressivist theories for moral predicates to the case of aesthetic predicates. Hybrid expressivist theories make no explicit commitment about the kind of property expressed by the predicate, but make explicit commitments to implicated expressive conative content. It is argued that dispositionalism about the properties expressed by aesthetic predicates combined with hybrid expressivism can account for aesthetic disagreement.