

PHILOSOPHY 330

Fall 2020

4th Essay Assignment

Due Monday, November 23

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 330 #4.

Write a 4-5 page essay on one of the following topics:

John Dewey on Art as Experience

What does Dewey mean when he explains that art is an experience? What does he mean when he suggests that the success or failure of a work of art is how well it works in experience? What does he suggest is the importance of art? What does he find so valuable in the experience of great works of art? Can you relate any personal experience you have had with art that might validate what Dewey is saying? Are there any problems with Dewey's view?

Suzanne Langer on Art as Symbol of the Forms of Feeling

How did Langer develop her theory about music to a general theory about art? How is this expressed in her statement that "music must be more than producing pleasing sounds"? What does Langer mean when she explains how works of art are expressions of symbols of feeling? Can you relate in your experience of music or of visual art to what Langer is saying about art? Are there any problems with Langer's view?

Heidegger on the Origin of the Work of Art

How does Heidegger attempt to resolve the raging discordance between art and truth? What does he mean when he suggests that art is a happening of truth? How is this brought out in his interpretation of the Van Gogh painting of shoes? Why does Heidegger think that art can be very important in waking us up to what it means to be in the world, and to perhaps change our very way of being-in-the-world? How is this brought out in the documentary about the films of Terrence Malik? Can you relate to what Heidegger is saying about art in your experience of art? Are there any problems with Heidegger's view?

Merleau-Ponty and Modern Painting

Why does Merleau-Ponty think that modern painting has an "ontological significance"? How does modern painting, particularly the paintings of Cézanne, reveal something important about vision itself? Merleau-Ponty rejects the notion of art as imitation and accepts that it is "a process of expression," but what does he suggest is expressed in modern painting, in the paintings of Cézanne? How is this brought out by Merleau-Ponty in the quote from Cézanne that "Nature is on the inside"? What does he think philosophers should learn from Cézanne's doubt? Can you relate to what he says about Cézanne's paintings? Are there any problems with Merleau-Ponty's view?