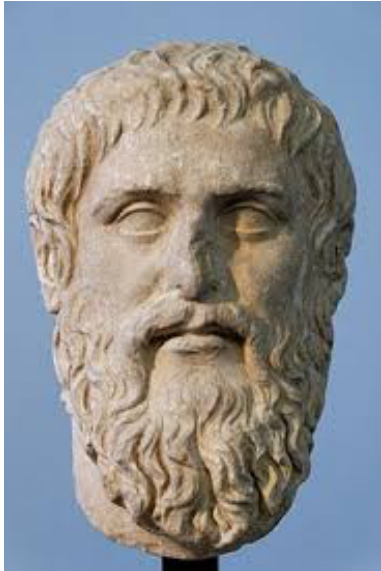


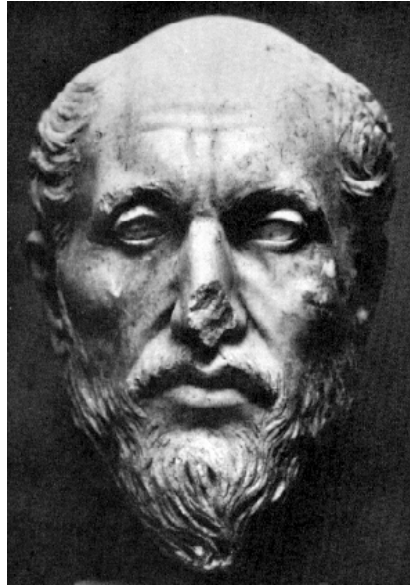
Music Philosophy and Aesthetics

Meeting 2:

Beauty
A Very Short Introduction



Plato



Plotinus



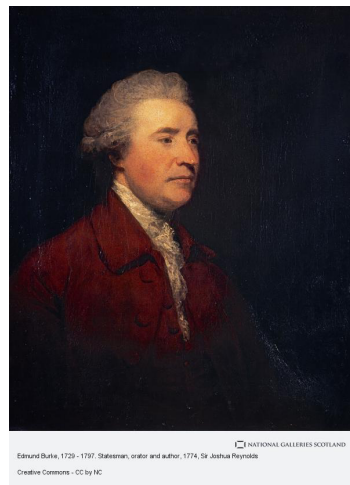
Aquinas



Kant



(Alexander Baumgarten)



Edmund Burke

Platitudes

- Page

Standards?

- Within?
- Outside?
- Universal?
- Eternal?

Paradox

- The judgement of beauty makes a claim about its object
- This judgement can be supported by reasons for its claim
- The reasons do not compel the judgement
- The reasons can be rejected without contradiction

- Judgements of value tend to be comparative
- We use other adjectives besides “beautiful”
- The judgement of beauty is not merely a statement of preference. It demands an act of **attention** and may be expressed in many different ways
- The term “aesthetic” is now in common use

Aesthetics (1)

- Earl of Shaftesbury (1711)
- Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten (1735)
- Separation from logic (study of reason and intellect)
- Arts and Fine Arts
- Aesthesis: sensation

Aesthetics (2)

- Objective vs. Subjective
- Taste
- Expertise
- Fine arts vs. useful arts
- art vs. craftsmanship (Crafts and Arts Movement).

- page 21: “I propose that, rather than emphasize the ‘immediate’, ‘sensory’, ‘intuitive’ character of the experience of beauty, we consider instead the way in which an object *comes before us*, in the experience of beauty.”

- (Page 22) “We call something beautiful when we gain pleasure from contemplating it as an individual object, for its own sake, and in its *presented form*.”
- “Such complex entities are *framed* by aesthetic interest, held together, as it were, under a unified and unifying gaze.”

Kant

- Disinterested interest
- Disinterested pleasure
- Interests determined by desires
- Not an interest of mine, but an interest of reason *in* me
- Categorical imperative
- pleasure in, pleasure from, pleasure that

- Are critical reasons really *reasons*?
- Judgement
- Taste
- Observation of facts
- Appreciation
- Matched against personal preferences or an shared standard?

- Taste and order
- consensus
- Search for objectivity
- Objectivity and universality
- The standard of taste is fixed by the virtues of the critic
- These virtues are tried and proved in moral life







Flight from beauty

