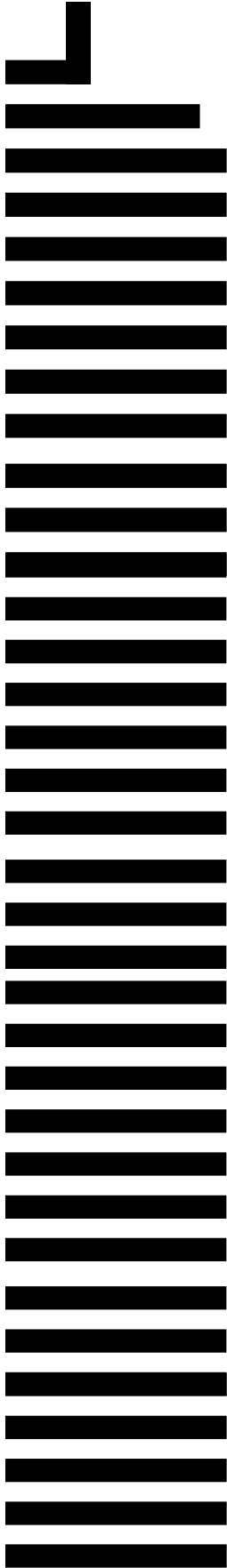




# iaea

# Jena 2026

# Programme



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## Future Follows Past - Creating a Gesamtkunstwerk together for Arts and Aesthetics

The **International Association for Empirical Aesthetics (IAEA)** is a non-profit organisation promoting the scientific study of all aspects of aesthetics. The goal of the organisation is to give scientific research on aesthetics an international forum for discussion and exchange. Organisation members employ a wide range of empirical methods from psychology and other social sciences, as well as computational, biological, and neuroscience techniques; these target research questions in traditional aesthetic domains (visual art, music, performing arts), as well as newly emerging domains (video, computer animation), and broader, domain-general or everyday questions on the nature of beauty and aesthetic experiences.

**Gesamtkunstwerk is a German concept that translates to ‘total work of art’.** It refers to the idea of integrating multiple artforms (visual arts, architecture, design, music, performance, etc) into a single unified artistic expression.

By adopting this as a theme, we aim to create not just a conference but a collaborative aesthetic experience- where researchers, artists and designers come together to explore and co-create across disciplinary boundaries.

We invite you to be a part of this Gesamtkunstwerk at IAEA 2026 in the spirit of Bauhaus innovation.

IAEA 2026 is organised by aesthetics researchers based in Germany, Austria, the UK, and Canada.

If you have any questions regarding the congress please email us at [mail@iaea-jena2026.org](mailto:mail@iaea-jena2026.org)



[www.iaea-jena2026.org](http://www.iaea-jena2026.org)



[@iaea\\_jena2026](https://www.instagram.com/iaea_jena2026)



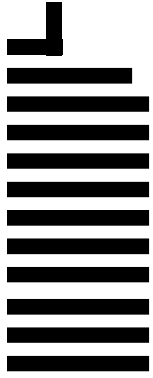
[@iaea-jena-2026](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iaea-jena-2026)



[@iaea-jena2026.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/iaea-jena2026.bsky.social)



<https://iaea-aesthetics.org/>



## Locations



Volksbad:  
Knebelstraße 10  
07743 Jena



Volkshaus:  
Carl-Zeiss-Platz 15  
07743 Jena



Phyletic Museum:  
Vor dem Neutor 1  
07743 Jena



Bauhaus Museum:  
Stéphane-Hessel-Platz 1  
99423 Weimar

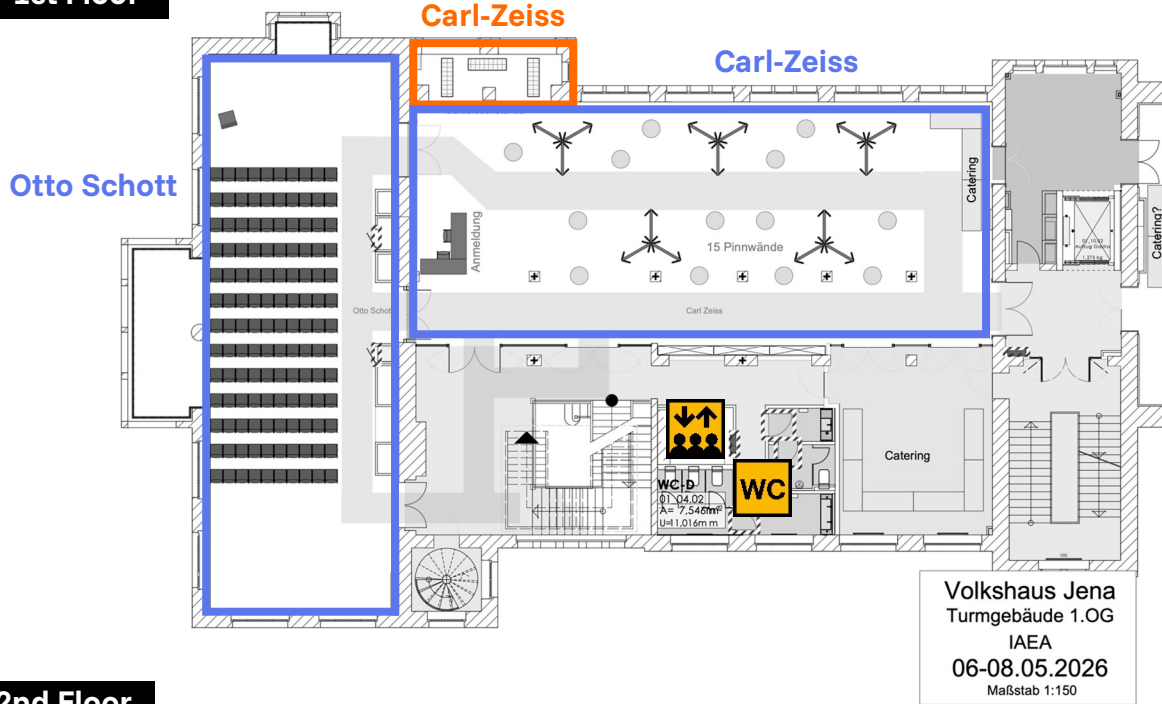


See pinned locations on Google Maps  
<https://gqr.sh/UbGX>

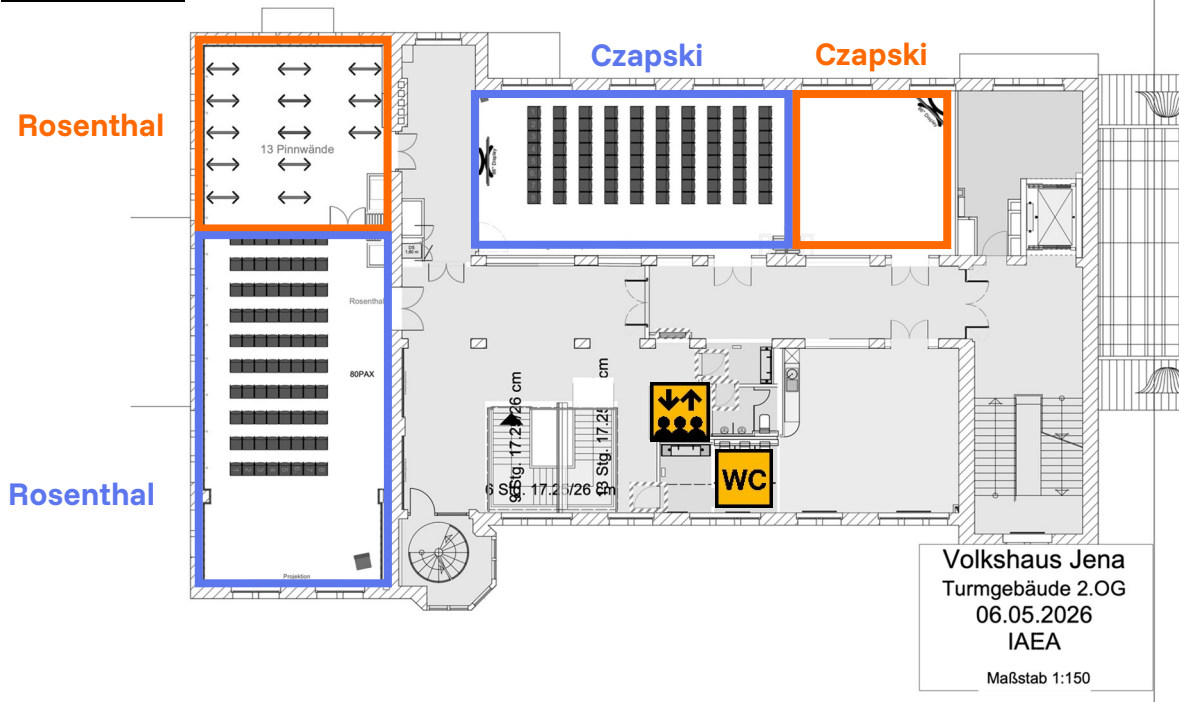
# Main Conference Venue

The main programme takes place from 6 - 8 May at **Volkshaus**, Carl-Zeiss-Platz 15, 07743 Jena.  
 The room locations are outlined for **scientific presentations** and **artist contributions**.

## 1st Floor



## 2nd Floor



# Programme Overview

	Wednesday 6th	Thursday 7th	Friday 8th	
09:00	<b>Registration &amp; Posters up</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Posters up</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Posters up</b>	09:00
09:15	<b>Opening &amp; Intro to Artists</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Intro to Artists</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Intro to Artists</b>	09:15
09:30	<b>Baumgarten Award:</b>			09:30
09:45	Aenne Brielmann	<b>Keynote Talk:</b>	<b>Keynote Talk:</b>	09:45
10:00	<b>Baumgarten Award:</b>	Eftychia Stamkou	Kohinoor Darda	10:00
10:15	Katherine Cotter			10:15
10:30	<i>Transition</i>	<i>Transition</i>		10:30
10:45			<b>Poster sessions &amp; Coffee</b>	10:45
11:00	<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>	<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>		11:00
11:15				11:15
11:30				11:30
11:45	<i>Transition</i>	<i>Transition</i>		11:45
12:00			<b>Parallel Symposia &amp; Talk Sessions</b>	12:00
12:15	<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>	<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>		12:15
12:30				12:30
12:45				12:45
13:00				13:00
13:15		<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	13:15
13:30	<i>Lunch &amp; Mentorship Meeting</i>			13:30
13:45				13:45
14:00				14:00
14:15				14:15
14:30		<b>Parallel Symposia &amp; Talk Sessions</b>	<b>Parallel Symposia Sessions</b>	14:30
14:45	<b>Parallel Symposia &amp; Talk Sessions</b>			14:45
15:00				15:00
15:15				15:15
15:30			<i>Transition</i>	15:30
15:45		<b>Poster Sessions &amp; Coffee</b>		15:45
16:00				16:00
16:15	<b>Poster Sessions &amp; Coffee</b>		<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>	16:15
16:30		<b>Washburn Award:</b>		16:30
16:45		Ed Vessel		16:45
17:00				17:00
17:15	<b>Parallel Talk Sessions</b>	<b>IAEA Business Meeting</b>	<i>Transition</i>	17:15
17:30			<b>Fechner Award:</b>	17:30
17:45			Anjan Chatterjee	17:45
18:00	<b>End of Day</b>	<b>End of Day</b>	<b>CLOSING RECEPTION</b>	18:00

# Social Events

## PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS • Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May



### Inside the Aesthetic Brain.

Live Brain Dissection of Neural Structures Associated with Aesthetic Experience (No additional cost)

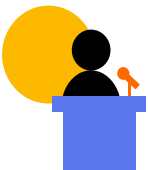
*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 4:30pm, Institute of Anatomy I, Teichgraben 7*



### Evening

Social Event & Keynote Talk (see below)

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm - 9:30pm, Volksbad Jena*



### Keynote Talk.

Thalia R. Goldstein

Associate Professor, Psychology, George Mason University

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm, Volksbad Jena*

## CLOSING EVENT • Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May



**Evening Reception** & live music by Turbo Boy [@turboboyband](https://www.instagram.com/turboboyband)

*Phyletic Museum*

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm onwards...*

## POST-CONFERENCE EVENT • Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May



### Bauhaus Excursion

Optional excursion to the Bauhaus Museum in Weimar in the morning. This includes 40 minutes of travel from Jena (including a 20-minute train). There will be two tour groups of the museum, each with capacity for 50 people, at 10:15am and 11:15am. The first group will meet in Jena at 9:30am and the second group at 10:30am.

(Train and museum entry fees apply)

*Bauhaus-Museum Weimar, Stéphane-Hessel-Platz 1, 99423 Weimar.*

<https://www.klassik-stiftung.de/en/bauhaus-museum-weimar/>

# Keynote Talk • 19:30 - 20:30

Tuesday 5th May • Volksbad Jena, Knebelstraße 10, 07743 Jena



## Thalia Goldstein

Associate Professor, Psychology, George Mason University

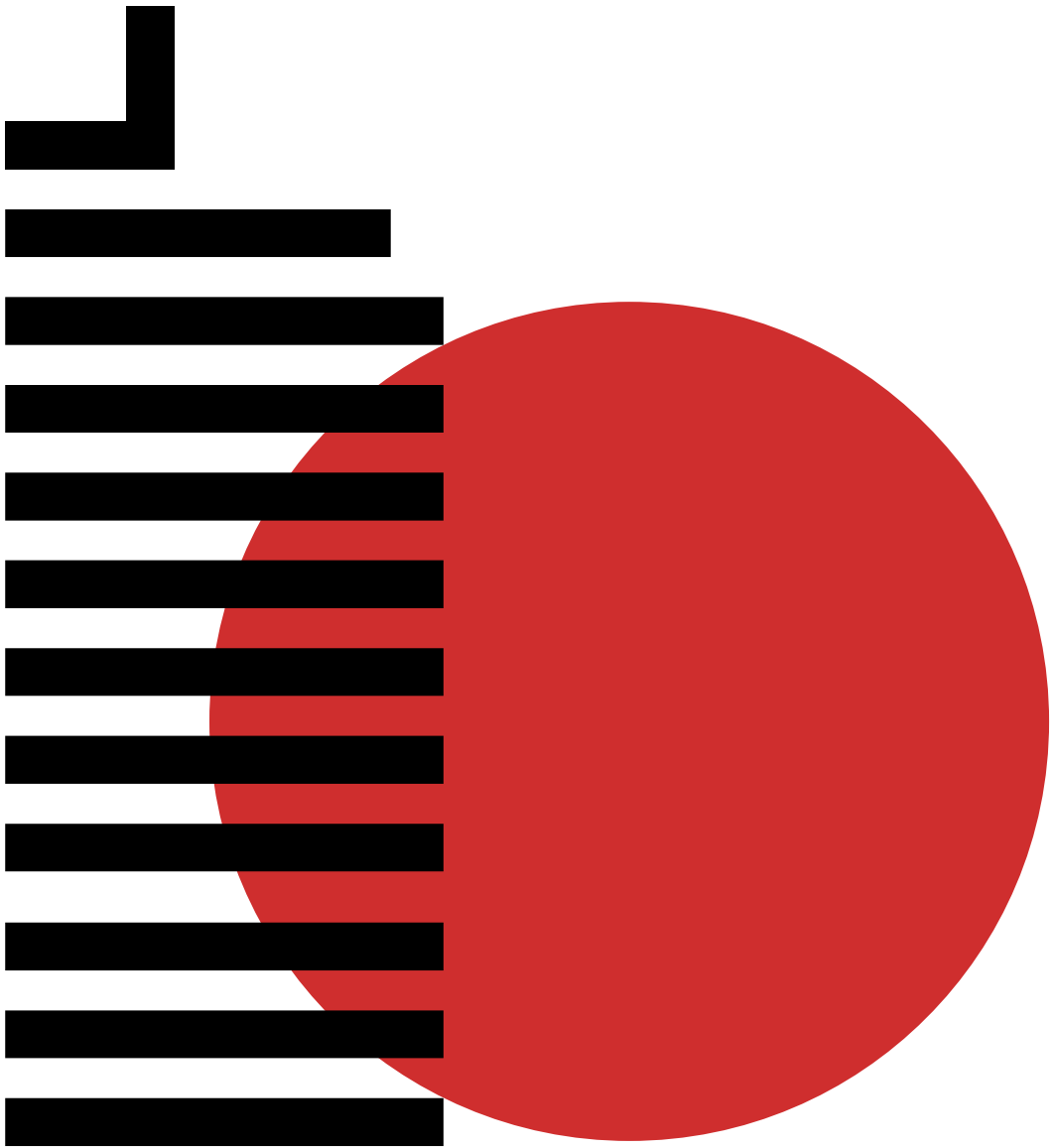
**Thalia R. Goldstein, Ph.D.** is Associate Professor and Director of Applied Development Psychology at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, USA. She is the principal investigator of the Play, Learning, Arts, and Youth Lab where her primary work focuses on the effects of engaging in the arts, imagination, and play on children's and adolescents' developing social skills, emotion regulation abilities, creativity, and embodiment. Her second line of work focuses on how children and adults understand the fiction/reality border, particularly in cases of characters such as Santa Claus. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The John Templeton Foundation, Arts Connection, the National Science Foundation, the American Psychological Foundation and the Department of Homeland Security. She was the co-editor of the journal *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* (APA Division 10) for eight years and previously was the PI of a National Endowment for the Arts Lab, the Mason Arts Research Center. Dr. Goldstein earned her B.A. from Cornell University in Theatre and Psychology, her MA and Ph.D. from Boston College in Developmental Psychology, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship Yale University.



### What we Expect from the Arts:

#### Transfer, Meaning Making, and Habits of Mind

Theatre, art, music, and dance exist in some form in every culture, and are central to ceremonies, rituals, and cultural identity. Yet at the same time, "the arts" are consistently under attack, experiencing multiple crises - lack of funding for artists and projects, cuts to educational programs, dwindling audiences, dismissal from those in power. In response, scientists and advocates alike have pointed to multiple reasons for what the arts "do" for practitioners and audiences, and thus implicitly, why they matter. Broadly speaking this is "transfer"; the idea that engaging in the arts will affect the student, practitioner, or viewer in some way once that experience is over. This talk will ask if the question "Are we demanding too much of the arts?" and explore the science and evidence behind the multiple types of transfer and meaning making discussed in the arts. I will discuss the ways in which various frameworks of inquiry can allow for better understanding and conceptions of artistic engagement, and using the example of theatre, present a series of studies building evidence for what, psychologically, theatre can do. Theatre, like all arts, contains various forms for those who participate, for audiences, students, professional actors, and those seeking to use applied theatre for therapeutic and interventional outcomes. Finally, I will present an agenda going forward, with both pathways to advocate for the arts and scientifically explore them without demanding more than they can give.



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

# OVERVIEW: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

06.05

09:00 - 09:15	Registration & Posters up		
09:15 - 09:30	Opening & Introduction to Artists		Schott
09:30 - 10:00	<b>Baumgarten Award Address:</b> Aenne Brielmann · <i>Past Forays, Predicting Futures</i>		Schott
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Baumgarten Award Address:</b> Katherine Cotter · <i>Making Sense of Art and Well-Being</i>		Schott
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Transition</i>		
10:45 - 11:45	<b>Talk session</b> Developmental and Developing Aesthetics Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Art Viewing in the Museum Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Design and Everyday Aesthetics Czapski
	<i>Transition</i>		
	<b>Talk session</b> Aesthetics of Human Faces Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Narratives & Games Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Feeling (for Others) Through Art Czapski
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch & Mentorship meeting (from 13:30)		Carl-Zeiss
14:30 - 16:00	<b>Talk session</b> Advances in Modelling and Measuring Aesthetic Experience Schott	<b>Symposium</b> Empirical Aesthetics of Dynamic Architectural Environments Rosenthal	<b>Symposium</b> Self-transcendent emotions evoked by music listening Czapski
	<b>Poster presentations &amp; coffee</b>		
	<b>Talk session</b> Engagement with Live Performances Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Altered States and Art Viewing Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Complex Emotional Experiences Czapski

Venue must be vacated by 18:30



# Artist Contributions

**LEA DEUTSCHMANN**

**“Verbunden”**

Location: Czapski

**KATYA GRANOVA**

**Spinnerei Summer Camp**

Location: Czapski

**FRITZI JARMATZ**

**Imagine Being Drawn**

Location: Czapski

**ROMI ZAKSE**

**Places Of Longing**

Location: Carl-Zeiss

# Award Addresses • 09:30 - 10:30

The **Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten Award** is given to one or two individuals who have produced outstanding empirical research in aesthetics or creativity over a period of up to 10 years\* after receiving their doctoral degree.

## **Anne Brielmann**

Liverpool Hope University, Department of Psychology

### **PAST FORAYS, PREDICTING FUTURES**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 09:30 – 10:00 • Location: Schott**

Like most other areas of research, empirical aesthetics has to grapple with the breakneck speed of technological innovation in the 2020s. Generative artificial intelligence has and continues to change our understanding of art, creativity, and people's everyday aesthetic experiences. Modern computational modelling tools are becoming an increasingly important tool for researchers. How can a field of study that dates back at least 150 years adapt to these drastic changes? Is it time to leave the past behind? I propose that we should not, but that we should rather reconsider our interpretation of past forays into both empirical aesthetics and computational modelling. A look at Baumgarten's initial conception of aesthetics reveals how similar it is to the latest computational perspectives on aesthetic experiences. Likewise, Fechner's aesthetics from below introduced fundamental ideas of algorithmic predictability of aesthetic preferences that modern algorithms rely on heavily. Finally, while generative AI's behaviour is impressive at first glance, they are the result of simple feedback mechanisms applied to an ever-more staggering number of parameters. Using examples from recent research, I will argue that advances in artificial intelligence are best used and understood when viewed against the backdrop of past theoretical and empirical insights. Many studies show that we can use outputs from deep neural networks to predict human behaviour. At the same time, these findings generate insights mostly if they are linked to clear assumptions that are grounded in theory and if the models that produce them consist of interpretable functional units. New media and new analytical tools do not demand that we discard the past. On the contrary: Past forays enable better future predictions.

## **Katherine N. Cotter**

Humanities and Human Flourishing Project, University of Pennsylvania

### **MAKING SENSE OF ART AND WELL-BEING**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 10:00 – 10:30 • Location: Schott**

Research examining the connections between the arts and well-being has been rapidly expanding and has drawn interest from many fields, including empirical aesthetics, psychology, and public health. This literature has revealed valuable insights connecting arts engagement to well-being, but there are limits to our ability to understand this relationship based on current theoretical and methodological approaches. I suggest that we reframe these investigations to think about the arts as a complex intervention composed of dynamic, interacting elements from which well-being is an emergent outcome. In this address, I will discuss why the arts fit the criteria of a complex intervention, how such orientations can help expand our understanding of its relationship with well-being, and how diverse methodological approaches can support expanded investigations of arts and well-being.

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 10:45 - 11:45

*\*presenting author*

### DEVELOPMENTAL AND DEVELOPING AESTHETICS

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Infant Visual Preferences and Adult Aesthetic Judgements are Predicted by Different Low- and Mid-Level Image Statistics**  
*Katherine A. Symons\**, *Anna Franklin* and *Alice E. Skelton*
- **Grounding Gesamtkunstwerk into the primacy of action-bound, intentional, expressive traces—the phylogenesis of style sensitivity in development**  
*Despina Stamatopoulou\**

### ART VIEWING IN THE MUSEUM

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

- **Time Alone, Time Together: How Slow Looking Changes the Art Experience**  
*Aleksandra Igdalova\**, *James O. Pawelski*, *Katherine N. Cotter* and *Elizabeth N. Johnson*
- **Real, Virtual, Passive: The Effect of Exhibition Modality on Art Perception, Art Appreciation, and Gallery Exploration**  
*Christopher Linden\**, *Gitte Van Winkel* and *Johan Wagemans*
- **Understanding visitor behavior in immersive virtual galleries: The role of artwork complexity**  
*Bengisu Görel\** and *Halime Demirkan*

### DESIGN AND EVERYDAY AESTHETICS

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

- **The empirical aesthetics of fashion: Contextual factors that shape (or do not shape) clothing preferences**  
*Young-Jin Hur\**
- **Product Design Liking: The Interplay of Semantic Associations and Fluency-Based Aesthetics**  
*Jan R. Landwehr\**, *Philipp Scharfenberger* and *Laura K. M. Graf*
- **Externalizing Thought Experiments: A Research through Design Approach to Empirical Aesthetics**  
*Christy Xueying Shao\** and *Steve DiPaola*

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 12:00 – 13:15

### AESTHETICS OF HUMAN FACES



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 12:00 – 13:15 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Who Do We Remember? Facial Anomalies, Race, and Sex in Social Categorization**  
*Soma Chaudhuri\**, *Isabella Bobrow* and *Anjan Chatterjee*
- **When Perception Lingers: Robust Serial Dependence in Face-Attractiveness Judgments with Selective Sensitivity to Similarity and Sexual-Orientation Groups**  
*Melvin Boog\** and *Gregor Uwe Hayn-Leichsenring*
- **Fast and Stable Perceptions of Attractiveness, Trustworthiness and Dominance in Voices, Dynamic Faces, and Videos**  
*Stefan R. Schweinberger\**, *Celina I. von Eiff*, *Christine Nussbaum* and *Romi Zäske*
- **The Gender Attractiveness Gap**  
*Eugen Wassiliwizky\** and *Fredrik Ullén*

### NARRATIVES & GAMES



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 12:00 – 13:15 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

- **Stories that Stick: The Eudaimonic Power of Negative Empathy in Narrative Video Games**  
*Francesca De Agnoi\**
- **Divergent Thinking and Narrative Approaches to Creativity Training: Individual Differences in Undergraduate Students**  
*Indre Viskontas\**, *Yoed Kenett*, *Angus Fletcher*, *Mikayla Wong*, *Fania Villarreal* and *Rosalie Juviler*
- **Sublime Experiences from the Videogame Journey: A Computational Analysis of 10.000 User Reviews**  
*Egil Ovesen\**
- **Modulated Emotions. On the Relation of Style, Genre and Emotion in the Fairy Tale**  
*Christine Knoop\**, *Thomas Nehrllich*, *Kirsten Stark*, *Sabrina Aristei*, *Alexander Enge*, *Oliver Lubrich*, *Werner Sommer* and *Rasha Abdel Rahman*

### FEELING (FOR OTHERS) THROUGH ART



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 12:00 – 13:15 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

- **Towards an Affective Aesthetic Cognitivism**  
*Joerg Fingerhut\** and *Corinna Kühnapfel*
- **heART to heart: The (Pro)-Socially Transformative Impact of Living with an Artwork at Home for a Month, an Experience Sampling Study**  
*Srestha Chakraborty\** and *Matthew Pelowski*
- **Beyond the Frame: Cultivating Empathy Through Art**  
*Jennifer Drake\** and *E Louison*
- **Communicating emotions through abstract drawings in autistic and non-autistic adults**  
*Young Ah Kim\**, *Fenja Liebert*, *Anja Rosenauer*, *Nesrin Koca*, *Fannie Jamila Leitner-Sidl*, *Marie-Sophie Jositz*, *Giorgia Silani* and *Matthew Pelowski*

## Parallel Talk/Symposia Sessions • 14:30 – 16:00

### ADVANCES IN MODELLING AND MEASURING AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 14:30 – 16:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Bridging the arts and sciences: 20 years of a framework for the psychology of aesthetics.**  
*Thomas Jacobsen\**
- **Computational phenomenology of powerful aesthetic experiences: Mapping emotions, perception and meaning from natural language**  
*Jeffery Vadala\*, Hannah Merseal, Isabella Bobrow and Anjan Chatterjee*
- **Facilitating Novices' Appropriation of Complex Artforms: A Predictive Model**  
*Shuo Cai\**
- **Performance on the New Corpus-Based Assessment of Novelty and Diversity Task is More Closely Related to Real-World Creativity Than the Traditional Remote Associates Test**  
*Amber Rose Lim\*, Ben Bullock and Benedict James Williams*
- **Profiles in aesthetic engagement: A new measurement tool and a snapshot of behavior in the United States**  
*Eileen Cardillo, Hannah Merseal\*, Raphael Englander and Anjan Chatterjee*

### EMPIRICAL AESTHETICS OF DYNAMIC ARCHITECTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 14:30 – 16:00 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

Moderator: Na Wei

- **A Multi-Phase Framework for Studying Aesthetic and Emotional Experience in Architectural Environments**  
*Na Wei\*, Martin Skov, Erick Gustavo Chuquichambi, Claudia Damiano, Vasiliki Meletaki, Anjan Chatterjee, Keaton Bruce, Xianyou He & Dirk B. Walther*
- **Foreground-Background Curvature and Emotional Experience: Evidence from Controlled Architect-Designed Stimuli**  
*Dirk B. Walther\*, Erick Gustavo Chuquichambi, Claudia Damiano, Na Wei, Vasiliki Meletaki, Keaton Bruce, Anjan Chatterjee & Martin Skov*
- **From Atmospheric Flow and Scripts to Narrative in Architecture: A Case Study**  
*Michael A. Arbib\**
- **Behavioral and cognitive modeling for empirical aesthetics on curvature forms**  
*Kristine Mun\* and Arkar Hein\**

### SELF-TRANSCENDENT EMOTIONS EVOKED BY MUSIC LISTENING

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 14:30 – 16:00 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

Moderators: Jonna Vuoskoski, Diana Omigie

- **Do humanness and morality affect emotional and aesthetic responses to music?**  
*Abbigail Fleckenstein\*, Mariola Paruzel-Czachura, Katarzyna Pypno-Blajda, Henna-Riikka Peltola & Jonna K. Vuoskoski*
- **Experiences of awe and being moved evoked by music: Exploring elicitors and socio-affective and behavioural correlates**  
*Jonna K. Vuoskoski\**
- **How culture shapes musical awe, beauty, and the sublime: Emotional qualities and long-term impact among British and Japanese listeners**  
*Yuko Arthurs\**
- **The neural correlates and consequences of music-induced awe**  
*Silvia Castellano\* & Diana Omigie*



## Poster Sessions • 16:00 – 17:00

*\*presenting author*

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 16:00 – 17:00 • Location: Rosenthal

- 1. Quantum Arcade: evaluating arcade games (and their design) as a science communication tool**  
*Anna Lena Knoll\* and Eva Specker*
- 2. Dramaturgical Human-AI Interaction: Affective, Aesthetic, and Physiological Responses to an Embodied Adversarial Agent**  
*Andrea Orlandi\*, Manuel Flurin Hendry and Emily S. Cross*
- 3. Asymmetrical Effects of Sound Onset and Offset on Visual Time Perception**  
*Go Furusawa\* and Hideaki Kawabata*
- 4. What does it mean to feel inspired? Mapping the Phenomenological Structure of Inspiration**  
*Kaile Smith\*, Aaron Kozbelt and Jennifer Drake*
- 5. Aesthetic preferences for 3D shape predictability are modulated by type of art expertise**  
*Jiwon Song\*, Minsun Park and Chai-Youn Kim*
- 6. Aesthetic Beginnings and Beyond: The Role of Complexity in the Development of Visual Art Preferences**  
*Kardelen Koç\*, Hannah M. Merseal, Gregor Hayn-Leichsenring, Anjan Chatterjee and Tilbe Göksun*
- 7. Embodied Agents in Contemporary Visual Arts: The role of intentionality on aesthetic appreciation of robotic systems**  
*Rebecca Chamberlain\*, George Evangelou, Daniel Berio and Frederic Fol Leymarie*
- 8. Shared gaze drives aesthetic agreement**  
*Mustafa Alperen Ekinci\* and Daniel Kaiser*

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 16:00 – 17:00 • Location: Carl-Zeiss-Saal

- 9. It looks like a garden door! The accuracy of meaning interpretation influences the aesthetic assessment of Old Chinese characters**  
*Yuguang Lin, Barbara F. Muehlbauer and Bettina Rolke\**
- 10. How much traditional art is there in modern art? An exploratory study of quantitative image properties in eleven Western artists**  
*Hannah Alexa Geller\* and Christoph Redies*
- 11. Colours and the stages of life. An inquiry on young Italian students**  
*Francesca Arzani\**
- 12. Aesthetically Experiencing and Learning about the Semi-Detached Houses of Le Corbusier in VR**  
*Maximilian Kenzo Molitor\*, Laura Peiffer-Siebert, Olga Özbek, Gregor Hochstetter, Jens Maiero, Eva Specker and Peter Gerjets*
- 13. Holistic Versus Object-Focused Viewing: An Eye-Tracking Study Testing Wollheim's Twofoldness in Art Portraits**  
*Rania Salma Lau\*, Lilli Westphal and Gregor U. Hayn-Leichsenring*

- 14. Embodied signature of dance observation: the interplay between sensorimotor and self-related cognitive processes**  
*Andrea Zardi\*, Andrea Orlandi, Maria-Chiara Villa, Alessandro Pontremoli and Edoardo Giovanni Carlotti*
- 15. The grammar of the gallery: Do walls and corners influence the perception of artwork?**  
*Bärbel Garsoffky\* and Florian Friedrich*
- 16. How Prior Mood and Affective Priming Shapes Art Experience and Evaluation: A Systematic Review**  
*Corinna Kühnapfel\*, Julian Kutsche and Joerg Fingerhut*
- 17. Ego Development and the Aesthetics of Objects and Structures: Developmental Changes in Aesthetic Production and Visual Attention**  
*Cordelia Mühlenbeck\*, Thomas Jacobsen*
- 18. Emotional Experience of the Actor: The Boundary Between Identity and Role**  
*Adéla Jedlitschkova\* and Jaroslava Dosedlová*
- 19. Beyond Mere Pleasure? Beauty Does Not Exceed the Effects of Pleasure on Pain and Stress**  
*Anna Fekete\*, Eva Specker, Rosa M. Maidhof, Morris J. Krainz, Andreas Gartus, Urs Nater and Helmut Leder*
- 20. What is Haptic Beauty?: Differences in Visuo-Haptic Aesthetic Preferences**  
*Meiyi Du\*, Jimpei Hitsuwari and Michio Nomura*
- 21. In pursuit of movement: A case study on the relation between choreography, viewing behavior, and aesthetic appreciation**  
*Elisabeth Van der Hulst\*, Jonas Rutgeerts and Johan Wagemans*
- 22. Neurochoreography: a method for integrating dance and neuroscience**  
*Spenser Stroud Meek\* and Vasiliki Meletaki\**
- 23. Music-induced modulation of neural entropy and perceptual learning across aesthetic appreciation and anxiety states: a preliminary investigation**  
*Paolo Barbieri\*, Greta Varesio, Jacopo Frascaroli and Irene Ronga*
- 24. The Aesthetic Appreciation of Art**  
*Priya Rajpurohit\*, Tanvi Raghuram and Kohinoor Darda*
- 25. Meta-Museum: making cultural heritage a transformative encounter**  
*Mariapia Lucia\*, Marco Iosa, Claudia Salera, Valeria Minucciani, Michela Benente, Gianluca D'Agostino, Michela Franzò and Daniel John Mangano*
- 26. Emotions Through Medialities: How Aura Shifts from Gallery to Screen to VR in the Belvedere Museum**  
*Alexandra Victoria Alvarez\*, Hanna Brinkmann, Matthias Husinsky, Julian Salhofer, Ramon Brullo, Johanna Aufreiter, Matthew Pelowski and Eva Specker*
- 27. Temporal Integration in Music and Aesthetic Judgments: Assessing Shared Taste Through a Transformer-Based Approach**  
*Sophia Senderak\*, August Miller and Ed Vessel*
- 28. The "Untitled Effect": How Explicitly Labelling Absence of a Title Shapes Poetry Appreciation**  
*Shodai Maruyama\* and Tomohiro Ishizu*
- 29. Measuring Beauty - Are the results of ratings and pairwise comparisons consistent?**  
*Barbara F. Muehlbauer\* and Bettina Rolke*

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 17:00 – 18:00

### ENGAGEMENT WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 17:00 – 18:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott



- **Engaged but Not Uplifted: Multimodal Evidence of Audience Engagement and Prosocial Behaviour During a Socially Confronting Live Music Performance**  
*Lauren Fink\**, *Joshua Schlichting*, *Maya Flannery*, *Alexander Nguyen* and *Shreshth Saxena*
- **Exploring Audience Experiences and Impacts of Live Theatre Performances**  
*Stephanie Miller\**, *Anna Astner* and *Matthew Pelowski*
- **I see you! Performer gaze conveys levels of acting during live performances**  
*Albane Arthuis\**, *Leyi Yao* and *Guido Orgs*

### ALTERED STATES AND ART VIEWING

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 17:00 – 18:00 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal



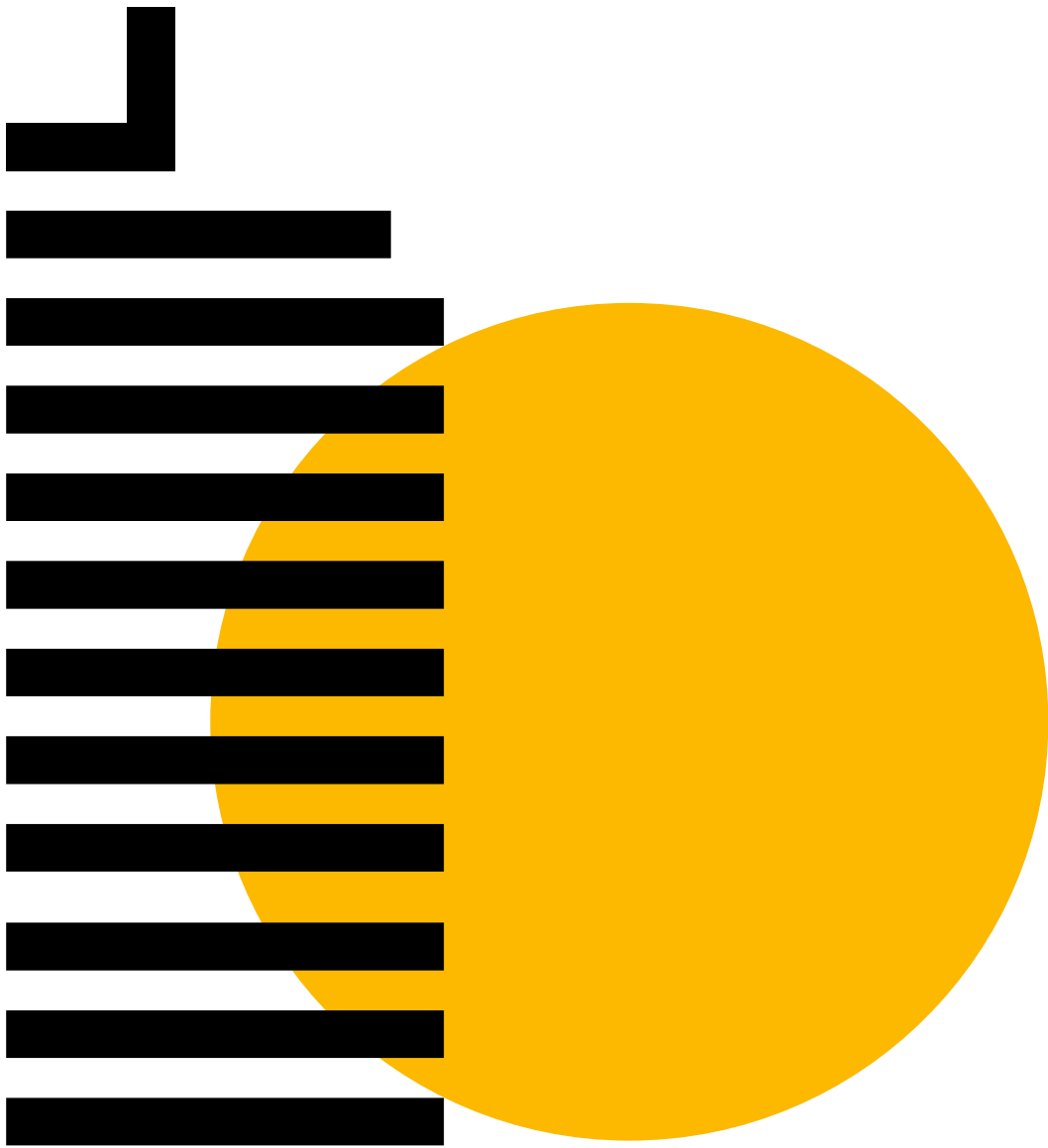
- **Under the Influence: How Alcohol Shapes Aesthetic and Emotional Responses to Art**  
*Mariola Paruzel-Czachura\**, *Vasiliki Meletaki*, *Katarzyna Pypno-Blajda*, *Sonia Bartodziej* and *Anjan Chatterjee*
- **DeepDream- Induced Altered States of Consciousness Modulate Aesthetic Perception, Emotion, and Empathy in a Real-Life Museum Setting**  
*Erdem Taskiran\**, *Tomaso Gazzola*, *Andrea Polo*, *Andrea Signorelli* and *Nicola De Pisapia*

### COMPLEX EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May • 17:00 – 18:00 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski



- **Being moved by paintings: Is it a distinct emotion, and how is it generated?**  
*Xiaohan Zhou\** and *Helmut Leder*
- **Mixed emotional experiences aroused by paintings**  
*Hideyuki Hoshi\**, *Miho Fuyama* and *Tomohiro Ishizu*
- **Experiencing the Sublime: Awe as a Pathway to Exploratory and Transformative Action**  
*Luis Oceja\**, *Sergio Villar* and *Eric Stocks*



**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

# OVERVIEW: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

07.05

09:00 - 09:15	Registration & Posters up		
09:15 - 09:30	Opening & Introduction to Artists		Schott
09:30 - 10:30	<b>Keynote Talk:</b> Eftychia Stamkou · <i>How Art Shapes Social Worlds</i>		Schott
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Transition</i>		
10:45 - 11:45	<b>Talk session</b> Experiencing and Making Art with Clinical Populations  Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Aesthetics in the Wild  Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Artificial Aesthetics  Czapski
	<i>Transition</i>		
12:00 - 13:00	<b>Talk session</b> Architecture and Spatial Design  Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Image Statistics and Composition  Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Processing Paintings  Czapski
	13:00 - 14:00 Lunch		Carl-Zeiss
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Talk session</b> Aesthetic Brains  Schott	<b>Symposium</b> From Uncertainty to Insight: The Science of Curiosity in Artistic Encounters  Rosenthal	<b>Symposium</b> Cultural Perspectives in Empirical Aesthetics  Czapski
	15:30 - 16:30 <b>Poster presentations &amp; coffee</b>		Carl-Zeiss
16:30 - 17:00	<b>Washburn Award Address:</b> Ed Vessel · <i>Pleasure from Understanding</i>		Schott
17:30 - 18:30	<b>IAEA Business Meeting</b>		Schott

Venue must be vacated by 18:30



# Artist Contributions

**LEA DEUTSCHMANN**

**“Verbunden”**

Location: Czapski

**KATYA GRANOVA**

**Spinnerei Summer Camp**

Location: Czapski

**CHRISTINE GEYER**

**Between Blossom And Horizon**

Location: Carl-Zeiss

**SANDRA STARK**

**Speaking Bodies**

Location: Rosenthal

**LEONE BURRIDGE**

**Illusory Colours in Monocular Rivalry: Paintings**

Location: Rosenthal

# Keynote Talk • 09:30 - 10:30

Thursday 7th May • 09:30 – 10:30 • Location: Raum Otto Schott



## Eftychia Stamkou

Associate Professor, Psychology, George Mason University

**Eftychia Stamkou** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Amsterdam. Her research brings together interdisciplinary perspectives to explore the dynamic relationship between art and society: How social and cultural contexts shape artistic creation and audience responses, and how artworks, in turn, challenge preconceptions and transform worldviews. Her current work focuses on two main areas: the subtle expression and subversion of gender stereotypes in film and visual art (highlighting how bias in art reflects and perpetuates social inequality) and the impact of aesthetic experiences on early development, including how music exposure fosters imagination and openness in young children. She employs a diverse range of methods, from lab and field experiments to psychophysiology, interviews, big data analysis, and computational modelling. Her research has been supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), the Fulbright Program, and the European Commission, and has been recognized with the Early Career Award from the European Association of Social Psychology. Bridging academic inquiry with real-world impact, she collaborates with institutions such as Carnegie Hall, Google Arts & Culture, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, and NEMO Science Museum. Eftychia leads the Amsterdam Arts and Social Sciences (AARTSS) Lab and curates the *Where Art Meets Science* event series at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) of the University of Amsterdam. She studied music composition at the Athens Conservatorium, earned her psychology bachelor's degree from Panteion University, and completed her master's and PhD at the University of Amsterdam.



### How Art Shapes Social Worlds

Art invites us into possible worlds. But do those worlds remain confined to the page, stage, screen, or gallery wall, or do they spill over into social life? In this talk, I argue that art can shape social worlds by changing what people are willing to engage with, how far their concern extends, and which forms of representation become visible, thinkable, and valued. Drawing on experiments, field studies, developmental research, and large-scale analyses of film and visual art, I examine how aesthetic experiences can make difficult content more approachable, evoke self-transcendent emotions, broaden prosocial concern, and reshape perceptions of gender and other social categories. At the same time, I highlight limits and tensions: art's effects are not automatically progressive, and shifts in feeling or attitude do not always translate into behaviour. Taken together, this work suggests that art is not merely a mirror of social reality or an escape from it; it is one of the places where social realities are rehearsed, contested, and sometimes remade. This perspective brings empirical aesthetics into direct dialogue with questions of social and cultural change.

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 10:45 - 11:45

### EXPERIENCING AND MAKING ART WITH CLINICAL POPULATIONS

Thursday 7th May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **A Transformative Aesthetic Experience in Breast Cancer Survivors**  
*Maria-Chiara Villa\*, Greta Varesio, Paolo Barbieri, Francesca Cotardo, Tommaso Marletta, Alessandra Laganà, Maria Rosa Stanizzo, Chiara Benedetto, Luca Ostacoli and Irene Ronga*
- **The affect of dementia on art over a lifespan: do portraits tell a more personal story of cognitive decline?**  
*Thomas Wilcockson\* and Pik Ki Ho*
- **Making Space for Creativity: Piloting a Participatory Artistic Intervention for People with Parkinson's Disease**  
*Paula Angermair\*, Blanca Spee, Thieme Stap and Matthew Pelowski*

### AESTHETICS IN THE WILD

Thursday 7th May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

- **Tracking real-life visual experiences of urban greening**  
*Aenne Brielmann\*, Momina Ijaz, Rachel Galpin, Catherine Thompson and Neil Harrison*
- **Beyond the Lab: Does the Beauty-Gaze Link Hold in the Wild?**  
*Tristan Barriere\*, Anna Lena Knoll, Eva Specker and Helmut Leder*
- **A Theoretical Model of Street Art Experience: Aesthetic Experience Beyond the White Cube**  
*Robbie Ho\* and Magdalena Szubielska*

### ARTIFICIAL AESTHETICS

Thursday 7th May • 10:45 – 11:45 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

- **Experiences of Artworks Created by Humans and AI**  
*Sinem Mustacoglu\*, Ralf F.A. Cox and Andrea Capiluppi*
- **Do synthetic singing voices with artificial timbre sound emotionless?**  
*Elke B. Lange\*, Kilian Vogt, Felix Baltes and Cathy Cox*
- **Prediction of Big Five personality traits based on AI-assisted self-image creation**  
*Klaus Kellerwessel\*, Bernadett Palkó-Arndt and Anikó Illés*

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 12:00 – 13:00

### ARCHITECTURE AND SPATIAL DESIGN

Thursday 7th May • 12:00 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Determinants of Intuitive Curvature Preference: Modulating Roles of Art Expertise and Interoceptive Accuracy**  
*Jiwon Song\**, *Chai-Youn Kim* and *Hackjin Kim*
- **The impact of preference for interior space design on incidental recognition memory**  
*Letizia Palumbo\**, *Nooshin Momenzadeh* and *Tobiasz Trawinski*
- **What Moves the Museum? Evidence on Indoor Spatial and Design Principles Shaping Affective and Aesthetic Responses**  
*Marta Pizzolante\**, *Caterina Restano* and *Andrea Gaggioli*

### IMAGE STATISTICS AND COMPOSITION

Thursday 7th May • 12:00 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

- **Image Composition and Aesthetics: Three Principles Manipulated, Validated and Tested**  
*Lisa Kobmann\**, *Milan Meulemans*, *Eline Van Geert*, *Stefanie De Winter*, *Michiel Willems* and *Johan Wagemans*
- **Saccade Clustering as a Tool to Quantify Visual Composition in Images of Paintings and Artistic Photographs**  
*Johan Wagemans\**, *Maarten Leemans*, *Lisa Kobmann* and *Doreen Hii*
- **Modeling Collinearity in Art Paintings: Insights from Gestalt Principles and Visual Cortex Processing**  
*Frederik Beuth\** and *Gregor Hayn-Leichsenring*

### PROCESSING PAINTINGS

Thursday 7th May • 12:00 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

- **What is the visual art schema? Insight into its content and structure via network analysis.**  
*Jan-Filip Tameling\**, *Valentin Wagner* and *Thomas Jacobsen*
- **Who is afraid of abstract art? On the different processing of abstract and figurative artworks**  
*Itay Goetz\**, *Jennifer Tesch* and *Claus-Christian Carbon*
- **“Every painter paints himself”: Turning the Right Cheek in 2,353 self-portraits**  
*Chris McManus\**

## Parallel Talk/Symposia Sessions • 14:00 – 15:30

### AESTHETIC BRAINS

Thursday 7th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Aesthetic value is behaviorally and neurally dissociable from reinforcement value**  
*Edward Vessel\* and Adam Reynolds*
- **Eliciting neural components of the aesthetic triad during art viewing in fMRI**  
*Hannah Merseal\*, Isabella Bobrow, Vasiliki Meletaki, Darlene Leohansson, Eileen Cardillo and Anjan Chatterjee*
- **Individually Tuned Deep Neural Networks as Proxies for Human Internal Representations: Modeling How Familiarity and Uniqueness are Shaped by Experience**  
*Zoryana Andrusyak\* and Edward A. Vessel*
- **Exploring the link between aesthetic experience and attention: a series of EEG studies**  
*Irene Ronga, Paolo Barbieri\*, Martina Berto, Pietro Sarasso, Jacopo Frascaroli, Giacomo Handjaras, Francesca Piovesan, Giorgio Gnecco and Davide Bottari*
- **Beauty beyond categories: A domain-general neural signature predicts perceived visual aesthetics of everyday objects**  
*Xinyu Liang\*, Kaixiang Zhuang, Yun Wang, Emmanuel Stamatakis, Daniel Kaiser, Martin Hebart and Deniz Vatansever*

### FROM UNCERTAINTY TO INSIGHT:

#### THE SCIENCE OF CURIOSITY IN ARTISTIC ENCOUNTERS

Thursday 7th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

Moderator: Ana Clemente

- **Neurocomputational mechanisms that bridge between valuation and knowledge to generate curiosity**  
*Jacqueline Gottlieb\**
- **Curiosity as a missing piece in music neuroscience: insights from laboratory, pharmacological, and real-life naturalistic experiments**  
*Antoni Rodriguez Fornells\**
- **Hedonic foraging as a framework for understanding curiosity and creativity**  
*Olivier Penacchio\* & Ana Clemente*

### CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN EMPIRICAL AESTHETICS

Thursday 7th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

Moderator: Jimpei Hitsuwari, Thomas Jacobsen

- **Shared determinants of beauty with culture-dependent weights: Evidence from German-Japanese studies**  
*Jimpei Hitsuwari\* & Thomas Jacobsen*
- **The Role of Age, Art Interests, and Art Knowledge in Cultural-Match Effect on Art Appreciation in Adolescents**  
*Magdalena Szubielska\* & Robbie Ho*
- **The rasa theory as a framework for cross-cultural empirical aesthetics**  
*Kohinoor Monish Darda\**
- **Cross-Cultural and Dispositional Influences on Real-World Engagement with Cultural Heritage**  
*Tobiasz Trawiński\**



## Poster Sessions • 15:30 – 16:30

*\*presenting author*

Thursday 7th May • 15:30 – 16:30 • Locations: Rosenthal

1. **Image Complexity vs Aesthetic Appreciation in Abstract Art**  
*Maartje Raijmakers\* and Eftychia Stamkou*
2. **From Artist to Viewer: Emotion Transmission and Art Experiences Across Original and Digital Presentations**  
*Kristoffer Sturm\*, Alexandra Alvarez, Theresa Demmer, Adrian Beil and Matthew Pelowski*
3. **Generative AI and Effort in Visual Art: Perceived but Not Valued**  
*Cecilia Theirs\*, Sergio Villar\*, María Luisa Martínez and Guido Corradi*
4. **Psychological Mechanisms of Dark Spaces in Aesthetic Experience**  
*Linwei Wang\* and Kenji Katahira*
5. **Everyday Aesthetic Context Modulates Sensorimotor Responses**  
*Tatiana Ledneva\*, Andriy Myachykov and Yury Shtyrov*
6. **Cultural Aesthetics of Fear: A Cross-Cultural Study of Marathi and Malayalam Horror Film Audiences**  
*Siyona Varghese\* and Kohinoor Darda*
7. **The Illusion of Simplicity: Gestalt Effects on Copying Behavior**  
*Alexander Pastukhov\*, Marie Fischer, Annika Luschtinetz, Ines Scheibel and Claus-Christian Carbon*
8. **Empirical aesthetics of bridges**  
*Dirk B. Walther\*, Mei Yang, Claudia Damiano and Paul Gauvreau*

Thursday 7th May • 15:30 – 16:30 • Location: Carl-Zeiss-Saal

9. **Emotional and Aesthetic Experience of Renaissance Art: Viewer Responses to Chiaroscuro Paintings**  
*Samantha Barbolan\*, Veronika Knedlíková Wanková, Ryan Joseph Slaby, Margherita Calderan and Marco Bertamini*
10. **The Effect of Visual Complexity and Ingroup Bias on Aesthetic Appreciation: No Evidence based on a Cross-cultural Study with Japanese-and German-speakers**  
*Jan Mikuni\*, Anna Fekete, Takuni Tanaka, Andreas Gartus and Helmut Leder*
11. **Evil Unframed: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry into the Impact of Viewing Art of Atrocities**  
*Alexandra Apesland\* and Katherine Robinson*
12. **Seeing the Mona Lisa Differently: An Eye-Tracking Case Study of Louvre and Prado Versions**  
*Lea Tschakarov\*, Lilli Westphal and Gregor Uwe Hayn-Leichsenring*
13. **The Role of Absorption in Music Listening for Pain Management**  
*Anna Fekete\*, Claire Howlin, Jan Mikuni and Urs Nater*
14. **From Euclidean space to spectral art: The hidden beauty of spirals**  
*Ronald Hübner\* and Matthias Hajari*
15. **3D Cultural Heritage Models for Education and Exploration**  
*Sander Münster\**

- 16. Using Deep Neural Networks to Model the Relationship Between Internal Visual Representations and Aesthetic Appeal**  
*Karen Azmy Wahba\* and Edward A Vessel*
- 17. Using Artistic Psycholudic Game Design to investigate cooperation in a three-person EEG hyperscanning study**  
*Theresa Demmer\*, Margarete Jahrmann, Georg Luif, Matthew Pelowski and Stefan Glasauer*
- 18. The Japanese Aesthetic Experience of "Yoin": A Quantitative Study of Post-Music Listening**  
*Kanon Fujihara\* and Tomohiro Ishizu*
- 19. Spirituality and Religiosity and Aesthetic Appreciation of Architecture**  
*Vasiliki Meletaki\*, Isabelle Lee and Anjan Chatterjee*
- 20. Artists' Morality Colors Aesthetic Judgments of Their Paintings**  
*Mariola Paruzel-Czachura\*, Isabella Bobrow, Alexander Christensen and Anjan Chatterjee*
- 21. From Representational to Abstract Art: Testing Learning-Based Accounts of Aesthetic Appeal**  
*Luis Morales\*, Aubrey Valdez, Ashley Gurung, Andrew Frankel and Edward Vessel*
- 22. Embodied Encounters with Cultural Heritage: A Neuro-Physiological Study**  
*Kalliopi Ioumpa\*, John Stins and Nadia Dominici*
- 23. Sequential Viewing and Description of Artworks Does Not Enhance Analytical Skills in Laypeople**  
*Frank Papenmeier\*, Gerald Dagit, Christoph Wagner and Stephan Schwan*
- 24. Neural Correlates of Negative Aesthetic Evaluations in Visual Art: A Neuroimaging Meta-analysis**  
*Ryan Joseph Slaby\*, Maria Arioli, Marco Tettamanti and Zaira Cattaneo*
- 25. Beauty, Biceps, and Body Image: Gendered Pathways to Muscle Dysmorphia**  
*Selina Maria Weiler\*, Tobias Thelen and Thomas Jacobsen*
- 26. Context affects aesthetic evaluation, being moved, and other emotions**  
*Andreas Gartus\*, Xiaohan Zhou and Helmut Leder*
- 27. Aesthetic Appreciation, Perceived Memorability, and Curvature in Visual Scenes**  
*Greta Varesio\* and Dirk Bernhardt-Walther*
- 28. Openness to Experience and Preferences for Complex Genres of Music and Movies: Is Need for Cognition the Missing Link?**  
*Maria Manolika\* and Thomas Jacobsen*
- 29. Interest and knowledge in visual art: validating the Italian version of the VAIK questionnaire**  
*Matteo Maioli\*, Veronika Knedlikova Wankova, Eva Specker and Marco Bertamini*
- 30. Investigating question asking via naturalistic online gaming environments**  
*Yoed Kenett\**

# Award Address • 16:30 - 17:00

The **Margaret Floy Washburn Award** is given to a person for their outstanding contribution to the field of empirical aesthetics by a mid-career scientist.

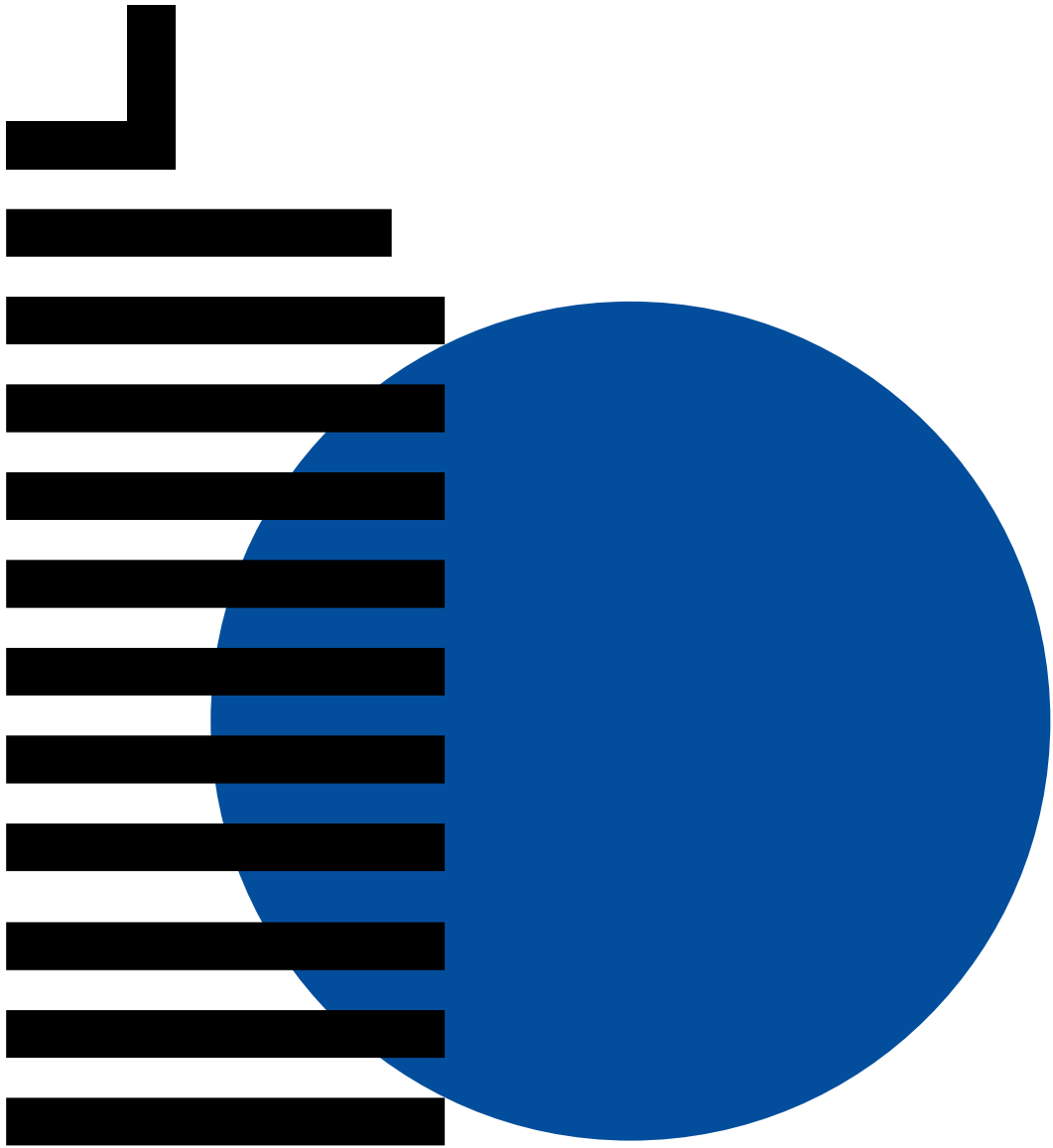
## Ed Vessel

City College, The City University of New York

### PLEASURE FROM UNDERSTANDING

Thursday 7th May • 16:30 – 17:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

Neuroaesthetics is at an inflection point. It has gained critical traction as a subfield and increased acceptance across cognitive neuroscience. The growing body of relevant data has improved prospects of reckoning neuroaesthetics with long-standing ideas in philosophy and psychology, and of integrating findings with cognitive neuroscience more broadly. Here, I offer a theoretical contribution aimed at hastening these goals. I propose that aesthetic valuation taps into a fundamental neural mechanism that allows humans to derive hedonic pleasure from the act of sense making. This “pleasure from understanding” can be differentiated from reinforcement learning in that it does not rely on learned associations to primary reinforcers. Rather it is the outcome of the comparison of sensory percepts to internal predictive models that produces uncertainty signals (prediction errors) at multiple hierarchical levels, and subsequent attempts to reduce that uncertainty by engaging in sense making. Improvements in one’s world model, which reduce uncertainty, are experienced as pleasurable. This pleasure then acts as a teaching signal guiding one towards parts of the environment that offer potential sources of learning. While not explaining all aspects of aesthetic experience and valuation, this proposal a) grounds aesthetics in the more basic process of learning about the world, b) clarifies major sources of individuality in aesthetic preferences, c) makes clear why aesthetic valuation often has a different quality from other forms of valuation, and d) links aesthetics to related processes such as curiosity, “aha” experiences of insight and creative inspiration. I will lay out core features, claims and consequences of the hypothesis – for example, that aesthetic appeal is maximal in a “zone of learning” that is close to what we know but offers the opportunity for learning – at both psychological and neural levels of description, and will highlight areas where more research is needed.



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

# OVERVIEW: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

09:00 - 09:15	Registration & Posters up		
09:15 - 09:30	Opening & Introduction to Artists		Schott
09:30 - 10:30	<b>Keynote Talk:</b> Kohinoor Darda <i>Who and what is art for? Bridging science and society.</i>		Schott
10:30 - 11:30	<b>Poster presentations &amp; coffee</b>		Carl-Zeiss
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Talk session</b> Curiosity & Learning through Aesthetic Engagement  Schott	<b>Symposium</b> Urban Aesthetics: Empirical Approaches to Public Art, City Design, and Mental Well-Being  Rosenthal	<b>Symposium</b> Characterizing Aesthetic Engagement with Art: Testing Theory with New Approaches  Czapski
	13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Carl-Zeiss		
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Symposium</b> Toward a Unified Art-Science Framework for Dance Research: Bridging Theoretical Foundations with Empirical and Applied Approaches  Schott	<b>Symposium</b> Perspectives on Well-Being and Aesthetic Experience in Context: Ecologically Valid Research from Urban Spaces to Museums  Rosenthal	<b>Symposium</b> The Arts and the Drive for Knowledge: Philosophical, Psychological, and Neuroscientific Perspectives  Czapski
	15:30 - 16:00 <i>Break</i>		
16:00 - 17:15	<b>Talk session</b> Cross-Cultural and Individual Differences  Schott	<b>Talk session</b> Diverse Approaches to Musical Aesthetics  Rosenthal	<b>Talk session</b> Multisensory Experiences and Multimodal Stimuli  Czapski
	17:15 - 17:30 <i>Transition</i>		
17:30 - 18:00	<b>Fechner Award Address:</b> Anjan Chatterjee <i>Crowd surfing empirical aesthetics</i>		Schott
19:00 onwards	<b>CLOSING RECEPTION at Phyletic Museum</b> <i>With live music by local band Turbo Boy <a href="#">@turboboyband</a></i>		



# Artist Contributions

**LEA DEUTSCHMANN**

**“Verbunden”**

Location: Czapski

**KATYA GRANOVA**

**Spinnerei Summer Camp**

Location: Czapski

**CHRISTOPH REDIES**

**„Abstract Works“**

Location: Carl-Zeiss

**MARGARETE JAHRMANN & ALEXANDER HACKL**

**„It Didn't Rain That Day“**

Location: Rosenthal

# Keynote Talk • 09:30 - 10:30

Friday 8th May • 09:30 – 10:30 • Location: Raum Otto Schott



## Kohinoor Darda

Advancement & Research in the Sciences & Arts (ARISA) Foundation

**Kohinoor Darda** holds a PhD in Social Cognitive Neuroscience from Bangor University (UK) and has worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Glasgow (Glasgow, UK), Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia), and the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA). Her work explores how the human brain and mind engage with art and how humans navigate their social world. She is the founder and CEO of the ARISA Foundation, a not-for-profit research and social work organisation based in Pune, India. At ARISA, she leads initiatives that bridge the arts and sciences, aiming to foster interdisciplinary and intersectional research, promote social transformation, and make psychology, neuroscience, and art more open, equitable, and accessible for all. Outside of the research lab, she enjoys social interactions with fictional characters in novels and underwater aesthetic experiences when scuba diving. A classical dancer trained in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, Kohinoor likes to integrate her background in the arts with her interest in psychology and neuroscience in both her research and choreographic endeavours. Wearing many hats is part of her everyday life—and philosophy. She believes that the most meaningful change arises when diverse disciplines, perspectives, and people intersect.



### Who and what is art for? Bridging science and society.

This keynote revisits a foundational question for empirical aesthetics: who and what is art for? Framed through aesthetic contextualism, it treats aesthetic experience as an emergent outcome of interactions among perceptual features, individual histories, and socio-cultural contexts. Using ARISA's pillars of research, education, and community as an organizing framework, it examines how these domains can be more effectively integrated.

In research, empirical aesthetics and neuroaesthetics have advanced understanding of how expectations, expertise, affect, and context shape aesthetic experience. However, these models are still largely developed within constrained cultural and institutional settings, limiting their generalizability. Aesthetic contextualism therefore requires expanding the empirical base to include cross-cultural variability, local knowledge systems, and decolonial perspectives. This shift feeds directly back into how core constructs of aesthetic experience are defined and tested.

In education, art functions as a translational interface for mental health awareness and neuroscience literacy. Its effectiveness depends not only on content but also on cultural framing, suggesting that educational approaches benefit from plural and context-sensitive reference points. At the community level, public art, participatory projects, and interdisciplinary collaborations extend empirical aesthetics into lived environments, while also generating insights into how aesthetic experience unfolds outside controlled settings.

These contexts serve simultaneously as sites of application and knowledge production.

Who and what is art for cannot be answered outside these entangled systems. Contextually and culturally situated and integrated research, education, and community engagement offer a pathway for aligning empirical aesthetics with lived experience, strengthening both scientific understanding and societal relevance.



## Poster Sessions • 10:30 – 11:30

*\*presenting author*

Friday 8th May • 10:30 – 11:30 • Location: Rosenthal

1. **Bridging Music and Dopamine Activity: The Positive Reward of Musical Performance**  
*Sofia Taylor\**
2. **Attractiveness versus beauty: An empirical study of disinterested aesthetic evaluation of the human voice**  
*Rinko Oka\*, Sotaro Kondoh and Shinya Fujii*
3. **Urban Drone Transportation in Aesthetic Context: Experimental Evidence for Acceptance, Co-Evaluation, and Scene Effects**  
*Svantje T. Kähler\*, Aquiles Luna-Rodriguez and Thomas Jacobsen*
4. **Vocal Attractiveness – A Matter of Age?**  
*Romi Zäske\*, Verena Skuk and Stefan Schweinberger*
5. **Exploring transdiagnostic patterns of music preferences and behaviour across autism and ADHD**  
*Silvia Castellano\*, Diana Omigie, Samantha Gregory and Bill Davies*
6. **Spatial abilities and realistic drawing: The role of artistic expertise in production and evaluation**  
*Alicia Alvarez-Martinez\*, María Soledad Beato, Javier Eseverri, Mar Suarez, Juan Sebastián González-Rodríguez and Olivia Rivero*
7. **Modernism as a Statistical Departure from Nature**  
*Olivier Penacchio\* and Xim Cerda-Company*
8. **Neural Style on Art History**  
*Isamu Motoyoshi\*, Tomomi Itoi and Mahiro Hirata*

Friday 8th May • 10:30 – 11:30 • Location: Carl-Zeiss-Saal

9. **Faces, Forgeries, and the Cost of "Fake Beauty"**  
*Long Feng Huang\*, Jonathan Cant and Oshin Vartanian*
10. **Language as a Cultural Bridge in Aesthetic Judgment: The Roles of Linguistic Friendliness and Immersion**  
*Hira Shahid\* and Xianyou He*
11. **Feeling Creative? A Mixed Methods Exploration of Creative Individuals' Most Creative Time of Day for Creative Practice**  
*Amber Rose Lim\*, Benedict James Williams and Ben Bullock*
12. **Visual Processing in Art Appreciation: Cognitive Bias as a Lens in the Classroom**  
*Sue Anne Rische\**
13. **Colours, Feelings, Stories: Exploring the Development of Children's Aesthetic Evaluation of Art**  
*Amisha Keshan\*, Amruta Bahirwade and Kohinoor Darda*
14. **Default mode network and visual imagery in the aesthetic appreciation of haiku poetry**  
*Jimpei Hitsuwari\* and Michio Nomura*

- 15. Vocabulary in Scholarly Terminology of Aesthetics (VISTA)**  
*Gregor Hayn-Leichsenring\*, Kirren Chana, Jan Mikuni, Stephanie Miller, Oshin Vartanian, Melvin Boog, Helene Schaefermeyer and Aenne Brielmann*
- 16. Measuring Flow in Abstract Dynamic Generative Computer Art with Varying Complexity**  
*Samuelle Maria Rachel Jardin\**
- 17. Linking appreciation for order and complexity in natural images, art, and abstract patterns**  
*Eline Van Geert\* and Johan Wagemans*
- 18. Measuring Atmosphere: A Multi-Method Framework for Studying Generational Differences in Architectural Experience**  
*Ekaterina Zapolskikh\* and Tatiana Ledneva*
- 19. What's in a title? or 'Untitled'**  
*Nicole Ruta\*, Joanna Ganczarek, Claudia Damiano, Dhanraj Vishwanath and Brendan Wolfe*
- 20. The Influence of Script and Paper Type on the Aesthetic Appreciation of Japanese Calligraphy— Moderated by the Recipient's Degree of Japanese Enculturation**  
*Michael Sprengel\*, Valentin Wagner, Uta Lauer, Jimpei Hitsuwari, Jörg B. Quenzer and Thomas Jacobsen*
- 21. Art of the Absurd: Exploring the Psychology of Surrealism**  
*Alina Spas\*, Katherine Cotter, Aleksandra Igdalova and Brendan O'Connor*
- 22. Composers' mysterious mental strength, A systematic study of suicidality and depression among historical and contemporary creative artists**  
*Vincent Jorda\* and Marcel Prof. Dr. Zentner*
- 23. The Influence of Depressive Symptoms on Emotional and Hedonic Evaluations of Art**  
*Giulia Fiorentini\*, Alessandra Maria Roberta Santona and Rossana Actis Grosso*
- 24. Who Attends the Arts and why? Examining the Role of Personality Across Two Distinct Samples**  
*Maria Manolika\*, Valentin Wagner and Thomas Jacobsen*
- 25. Who the HAL does the job? About the Locus of Control in Human Creativity with AI as a Collaborator**  
*Lena Vogl\* and Claus-Christian Carbon*
- 26. Simulating Aesthetic Evolution: An Agent-Based Validation of Martindale's Theory**  
*Ahmed Elgammal\**
- 27. Wonder (and Wander) in The City — Investigating the Role of Wonder in Public Art Perception**  
*Maia Berger\*, Corinna Kuehnappel, Stephanie Miller and Joerg Fingerhut*

## Parallel Talk/Symposia Sessions • 11:30 - 13:00

### CURIOSITY & LEARNING THROUGH AESTHETIC ENGAGEMENT

Friday 8th May • 11:30 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

- **Emotional Dynamics and Sense-Making in Art Experiences Across Age Groups**  
*Gemma Schino\*, Lisa-Maria van Klaveren, Theisje van Dorsten, Barend van Heusden and Ralf F. A. Cox*
- **Curiosity, More than Openness, Predicts Engagement with and Learning from Challenging Art**  
*Isabella Bobrow\*, Rodin Bantawa, Hannah Merseal and Anjan Chatterjee*
- **Curiosity and Aesthetic Appreciation in Language Processing: Insights from LLMs**  
*Francesca Piovesan\*, Emily Van Hove, Tim Van De Cruys and Sander Van De Cruys*
- **Curiosity, Art, and the Pleasure of Knowing**  
*Stacey Humphries\*, Charlotte Potter and Maria Herrojo Ruiz*

### URBAN AESTHETICS: EMPIRICAL APPROACHES TO PUBLIC ART, CITY DESIGN, AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

Friday 8th May • 11:30 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

Moderator: Anjan Chatterjee, Matthew Pelowski, Joerg Fingerhut

- **Engaging with public murals changes the experience of urban neighborhoods**  
*Darlene Leohansson\*, Eileen Cardillo & Anjan Chatterjee*
- **Dynamic Aesthetic Experience in the City: Mobile Methods and Public Art Research in Vienna**  
*Kirren Chana\* & Anna-Lena Knoll\*, Oliver Tab Bellman, Marco Constantin, Margot Dehove, Theresa Demmer, Pia Caecilia Kolbe, Jan Mikuni, Martin Karl Moser, Matthew Pelowski, Katharina Prager & Emma Louise Wood*
- **Public Art and Urban Aesthetics: Empirical Approaches to Well-Being in Cities**  
*Corinna Kühnapfel\*, Felix Bentlin, Tanja Beier, Shadi Bagherzadeh-Azbari, Angela Million, Mazda Adli, Joerg Fingerhut*

### CHARACTERIZING AESTHETIC ENGAGEMENT WITH ART: TESTING THEORY WITH NEW APPROACHES

Friday 8th May • 11:30 – 13:00 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

Moderator: Pablo Tinio

- **Mirror, Maker, Viewer: Testing the Mirror Model of Art with Picasso's Paintings**  
*Oshin Vartanian\*, Hanshu Alexa Zhang & Dirk B. Walther*
- **Development of the Art Engagement Reflection Scale (AERS): A Mixed Method Assessment of Art Engagement**  
*Rebekah Rodriguez-Boerwinkle\*, Zorana Ivcevic & Pablo P. L. Tinio*
- **Measuring the Cognitive Effects of Art Engagement**  
*Pablo P. L. Tinio\*, Zorana Ivcevic, Rebekah Rodriguez-Boerwinkle & Paul Silvia*
- **Flourishing in Art Museums: Leveraging the VIMAP and RAISE Mechanism Frameworks to Understand Art Viewing Experiences**  
*Katherine Cotter\**

## Parallel Symposia Sessions • 14:00 – 15:30

### TOWARD A UNIFIED ART-SCIENCE FRAMEWORK FOR DANCE RESEARCH: BRIDGING THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS WITH EMPIRICAL AND APPLIED APPROACHES

Friday 8th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

Moderators: Andrea Orlandi, Kohinoor Darda

- **Neurocognition of Dance: Guidelines for Using Dance as a Model Behaviour and Research Subject in Cognitive Neuroscience**  
*Vasiliki Meletaki\**
- **A ‘four-hand’ research: artists and scientists in the lab”**  
*Andrea Zardi*
- **Linking brain and body in movement aesthetics: A multi-technical research approach**  
*Andrea Orlandi\* & Emily S. Cross*
- **Methodological Considerations For Dance-Based Interventions, in the Domain of Health and Well-being research**  
*Julia F. Christensen\**

### PERSPECTIVES ON WELL-BEING AND AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE IN CONTEXT: ECOLOGICALLY VALID RESEARCH FROM URBAN SPACES TO MUSEUMS

Friday 8th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal

Moderator: Helmut Leder

- **Tokyo**  
*Hideaki Kawabata\*, Hiroko Kawai, Go Furusawa, Jun Shi, Kazuo Isoda, Asami Matsuyama & Ichiro Hisanaga*
- **Rome**  
*Stefano Mastandrea\*, Gioia Cancellier, Paola Liotta, Marika Mascitti & Eugenio De Gregorio*
- **Vienna**  
*Jan Mikuni\* & Katherine Cotter*

### THE ARTS AND THE DRIVE FOR KNOWLEDGE: PHILOSOPHICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND NEUROSCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES

Friday 8th May • 14:00 – 15:30 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski

Moderator: Francesca Piovesan

- **Philosophical Perspectives on Aesthetic Experience and the Drive for Knowledge**  
*Filippo Contesi\**
- **Art and Learning: A Psychological Overview**  
*Jacopo Frascaroli\**
- **Neuroscientific Approaches to Information-Seeking and Aesthetic Experience**  
*Diana Omigie\**

## Parallel Talk Sessions • 16:00 – 17:15

### CROSS-CULTURAL AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Friday 8th May • 16:00 – 17:15 • Location: Raum Otto Schott



- **What We Share and Where We Differ in Art Experience**  
*Vicente Estrada Gonzalez\**, *Kohinoor Monish Darda*, *Eileen R. Cardillo*, *Zuha Nasim*, *Amy Krimm* and *Anjan Chatterjee*
- **Shared and Diverse Impressions of Portrait Paintings: Agreement and Causal Structure from Individual Differences**  
*Takanori Sano\** and *Hideaki Kawabata*
- **World Aesthetic Survey (WAS): Aesthetic preferences for shape, curvature, colour, and music across 62 societies**  
*Harin Lee\**, *Eline Van Geert*, *Elif Çelen*, *Zofia Hołubowska*, *Manuel Anglada-Tort*, *Raja Marjeh*, *Pol van Rijn*, *Minsu Park* and *Nori Jacoby*
- **Conceptualizing Art Across Belief Systems: A Comparative Network Analysis of Art Classification**  
*Gregor Uwe Hayn-Leichsenring\** and *Yoed Kenett*

### DIVERSE APPROACHES TO MUSICAL AESTHETICS

Friday 8th May • 16:00 – 17:15 • Location: Raum Clara und Eduard Rosenthal



- **Cognitive-Emotional Listening Modes: Trait and Instruction Effects in Live Classical Music**  
*Julia Merrill\** and *Melanie Wald-Fuhrmann*
- **Your voice is music to my ears: Conveying prosodic affect through musical improvisation**  
*Shlomo Frige*, *Zohar Eitan* and *Bruno Gingras*
- **Individual Differences in the Preference for Musical Harmony: Investigating the Role of Sensitivity to Processing Fluency**  
*Edward Smith\** and *Ronald Friedman*
- **Musical sophistication is linked to sexual behaviour and mating success**  
*Manuela Marin\**

### MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCES AND MULTIMODAL STIMULI

Friday 8th May • 16:00 – 17:15 • Location: Raum Siegfried Czapski



- **The element of surprise distinguishes beauty from pleasure and interest in visuo-tactile art experiences: Neural signatures of aesthetic 'aha'**  
*Eleftheria Pistolas\** and *Johan Wagemans*
- **Body involvement in aesthetics: The influence of time coherence in action simulation on aesthetic perception for body movements**  
*Wanyue Li\** and *Xianyou He*
- **The Rhythm of Complexity: effects on crossmodal aesthetic preferences**  
*Funda Yilmaz\**, *Umut Güçlü*, *Yağmur Güçlütürk* and *Rob van Lier*

# Award Address • 17:30 - 18:00

The **Gustav Theodor Fechner Award** is given to a person who has made a lifetime contribution to the field of empirical aesthetics.

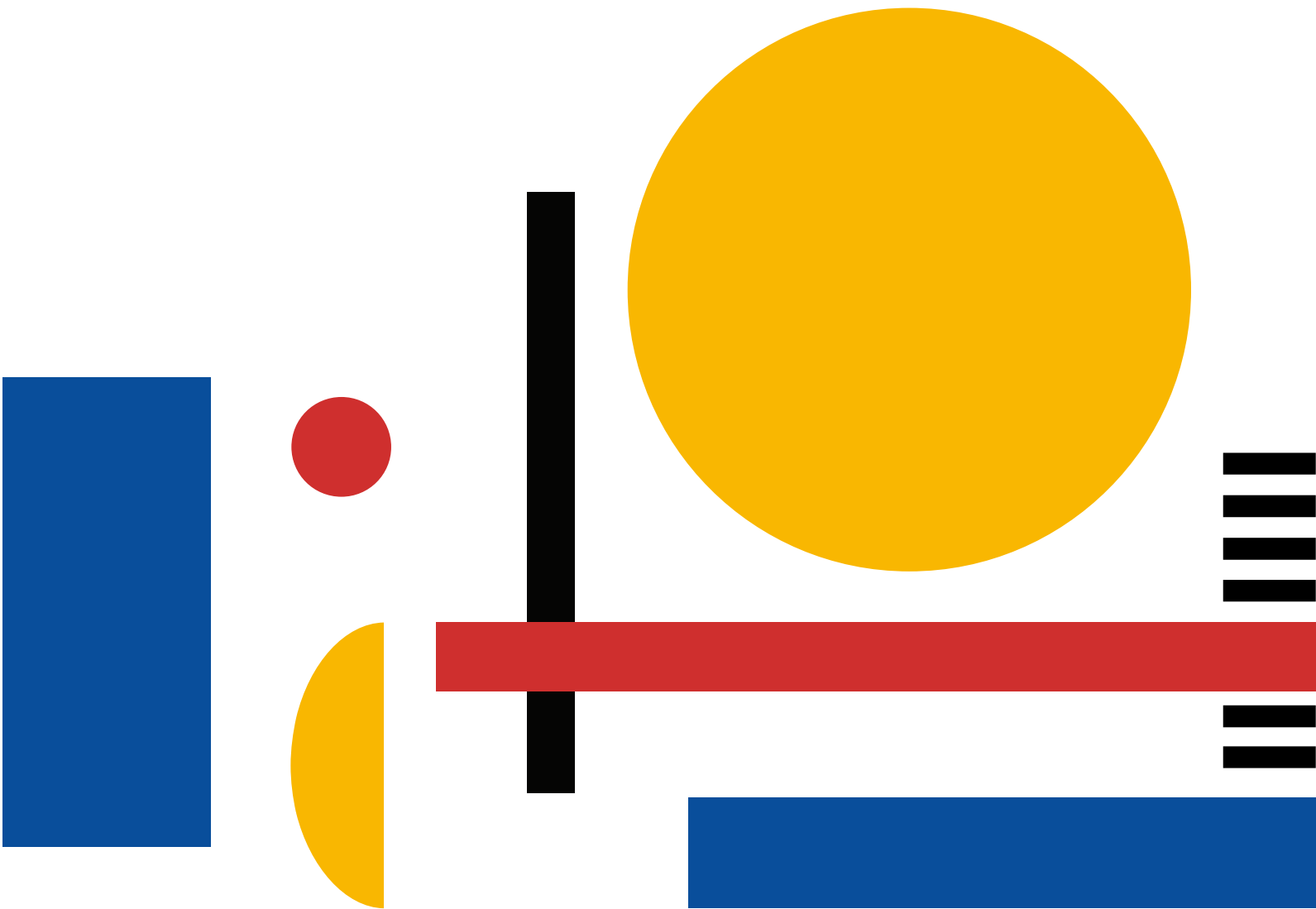
**Anjan Chatterjee**

Penn Center for Neuroaesthetics, University of Pennsylvania

## CROWD SURFING EMPIRICAL AESTHETICS

Friday 8th May • 17:30 – 18:00 • Location: Raum Otto Schott

Isaac Newton, echoing an earlier medieval sentiment, famously claimed that he saw further because he stood on the shoulder of giants. This idea of building on the work of earlier scholars is only part of the story. Some of us are propped up by students and colleagues as we flail in unpredictable directions through the morass of our work. I am grateful to the many people who have worked with me. I will describe my involvement in empirical aesthetics as an unfolding in ten parts : 1) my first empirical aesthetics paper that nobody has read, 2) figuring out organizing frameworks, 3) experiments provided by nature, 4) naturalizing aesthetics, 5) inhabiting the built environment, 6) going beyond beauty, 7) stepping into the wild, 8) recognizing a world bigger than Europe and North America, 9) developing developmental aesthetics, and 9) anticipating future shock.



**[www.iaea-jena2026.org](http://www.iaea-jena2026.org)**

**XXIX Congress of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics**