

Humanities: Science or Art Criticism? Humanities as Part of the Problem or the Solution.

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What is it to be Human?
On the Humanities and Practical Self-Understanding
Utrecht
April 19, 2016

Website

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1 Subjectivity

Today

1. Sciences are objectivist.
2. What is subjectivity?
3. Art celebrates and educates subjectivity.
4. The challenge for humanities — objectivity or suitable prompting?

Sciences are objectivist.

- They respond to the subjective with
 - Reduction
 - Elimination
 - Annexation
- They specify lawlike necessities.
- But that is not the whole story.

2 Art

Kant on aesthetic normativity

and the principle of acquaintance.

- “We solicit everyone else’s assent because we have a basis for [our aesthetic judgement] that is common to all. Indeed, we could count on that assent, if only we could always be sure that the instance had been subsumed correctly under that basis, which is the rule for the approval.”
 - Kant, *Critique of Judgement*, § 19, B 237; Pluhar, p. 86.

Suitable spectators

- “A suitable spectator is a spectator who is suitably sensitive, suitably informed, and, if necessary, suitably prompted.”
 - Richard Wollheim, 2001

“Suitably sensitive”

- Subjective realism
- Three types of properties » *Guernica*

2.1 Suitable prompting

Challenge for the Humanities

- Objective science: which lawlike regularities; why aesthetic statistics?
 - » Empirical aesthetics?
 - * Eliminating aesthetic normativity?
- Suitable prompting.

3 References

References

- [1] Kant, Immanuel *Critique of Judgement (Kritik der Urteilskraft)*. Translated by Werner S. Pluhar. Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company (orig: 1790, Berlin und Libau: Lagarde und Friederich).
- [2] Wollheim, Richard. 1980. “Art and Evaluation.” *Art and its Objects. Second edition*, 227–240 Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- [3] Wollheim, Richard. 2001. “On Pictorial Representation.” *Richard Wollheim on the Art of Painting. Art as Representation and Expression*, edited by Rob van Gerwen, 13–27 Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.



(a) Picasso: Guernica



(b) Suitably prompted (seeing-in)

Figure 1: Watching pictures