

## Curriculum Vitae

STEPHANIE ROSS

### Contact Information

Department of Philosophy  
599 Lucas Hall (MC 73)  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
One University Blvd.  
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6125 West Park  
St. Louis, Mo. 63139  
(314) 645-8281

### Positions

Professor of Philosophy  
Director of Undergraduate Studies 2011-2013  
Department Chair 2008-2011  
Director of Graduate Study 2000-2008  
Book Review Editor – Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, 2000-2008

### Education

Ph.D. Harvard University 1977  
Dissertation: "Belief and Attitude"  
Advisor: Stanley Cavell  
M.A. Harvard University 1974  
B.A. Smith College 1971, summa cum laude

### Areas of Concentration

Philosophy of Art  
Landscape Aesthetics  
Environmental Ethics

### Work in Progress

"Community Gardens," to appear in the Routledge Companion to Environmental Ethics edited by Andrew Light and Ben Hale.

### Two Thumbs Up: How Critics Aid Appreciation

Under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Précis: My book explores aesthetic appreciation, examining what goes on when we engage with works of art and asking whether some people's views should be privileged. I set out and defend a reconstructed Humean theory, i.e., one that specifies a set of ideal critics and links their verdicts to a standard of taste. I revise Hume's definition of ideal critics, recalibrate the scope of their expertise, and put in place machinery to secure my system. I argue that proper critical practice secures the objectivity of aesthetic judgments and thus a nuanced realism in aesthetics. Along the way, I examine other topics including gustatory taste, aesthetic qualities, empirical research on aesthetic preference, differences among the arts, and the failings of bad art.

### Submitted

"When Critics Disagree: Prospects for Realism in Aesthetics" (28 ms. pp.)

### Forthcoming

"Criticism" Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Literature edited by Noel Carroll and John Gibson.

### Publications

## Books

What Gardens Mean (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998)  
-- concluding chapter reprinted in Landscape Architecture, July 1998

## Papers

“Context, Causality, and Appreciation” Behavioral and Brain Sciences Vol. 36 No. 2 pp. 155-156. Commentary on Nicholas J. Bullot and Rolf Reber, “The artful mind meets art history: toward a psycho-historical framework for the science of art appreciation.”  
[http://journals.cambridge.org/repo\\_A88PrDEB](http://journals.cambridge.org/repo_A88PrDEB)

“Comparing and Sharing Taste: Reflections on Critical Advice” Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Vol 70 No. 4 (2012), pp. 363-371.

“Ideal Observer Theories in Aesthetics” Philosophy Compass, Vol. 6 No. 8 (2011), pp. 513-522.

“When Philosophers Want to Have it All: Comments on Ron Moore’s Syncretic Theory of Natural Beauty.” Ethics, Place, & Environment Vol. 12 No. 3 (2009), pp. 343-349.

“Humean Critics: Real or Ideal?” The British Journal of Aesthetics Vol 48 No. 1 (2008), pp. 20-28.

“Gardens, Nature, Pleasure” in The Aesthetics of the Human Environments edited by Arnold Berleant and Allen Carlson (Broadview Press, 2007), pp. 252-272.

“Paradoxes and Puzzles: Appreciating Gardens and Urban Nature,” Contemporary Aesthetics Vol. 4 (2006) (unpaginated electronic journal).

“Landscape Perception: Theory-Laden, Emotionally Resonant, Politically Correct,” Environmental Ethics, Vol. 27 (2005), pp. 245-263.

“Style” in The Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics ed. by Jerrold Levinson (Oxford University Press, 2003), 228-244.

“Nature, Gardens, Art: The Problem of Appreciation,” in Art and Essence, edited by Stephen Davies and Ananta Ch. Sukla (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 2003), 39-53.

“Aesthetic Qualities, Aesthetic Experience, Aesthetic Value,” Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics, Vol. 23, Nos. 1&2 (2000), 61-78.

“Gardens’ Powers,” The Journal of Aesthetic Education, Vol. 33, No. 3 (1999), 4-17.

“Conducting and Musical Interpretation,” co-authored with Jennifer Judkins, British Journal of Aesthetics, Vol. 36 No. 1 (1996) 16-29.

“Gardens, Earthwork, and Environmental Art,” in Landscape, Natural Beauty, and the Arts, ed. by Salim Kemal and Ivan Gaskell (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 158-182.

“Women, Morality, and Fiction,” co-authored with Jenefer Robinson, Hypatia, Vol. 5, No. 2 (1990), 76-90.

-- Reprinted in Aesthetics in Feminist Perspective, ed. Hilde Hein and Carolyn Korsmeyer (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993).

“Philosophy, Literature, and the Death of Art,” Philosophical Papers, Vol. 18, No. 1 (1989), 95-115.

“The Picturesque: An Eighteenth-Century Debate,” Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Vol.

45, No. 2 (1987), 271-279.

“Chance, Constraint, and Creativity: The Awfulness of Modern Music,” Journal of Aesthetic Education, Vol. 19, No. 3 (1985), 21-35.

“Ut Hortus Poesis: Gardening and Her Sister Arts in Eighteenth-Century England,” British Journal of Aesthetics, Vol. 25, No. 1 (1985), 17-32.

“Painting the Passions: Charles LeBrun’s Conference on Expression,” Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. 45, No.1 (1984), 25-47.

“What Photographs Can’t Do,” Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Vol. 41, No. 1 (1982), 5-17.

“On Goodman’s Query,” The Southern Journal of Philosophy, Vol. 19, No. 3 (1981), 375-387.  
-- Reprinted in Nelson Goodman’s Philosophy of Art, ed. Catherine Elgin (Garland, 1997)

“Art and Allusion,” Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Vol. 40, No. 1 (1981), 59-70.

“How Words Hurt: Attitude, Metaphor, and Oppression,” in Sexist Language (A Modern Philosophical Analysis), ed. Mary Vetterling-Braggin (Littlefield Adams and Co., 1981), 194-216.

-- Reprinted in Twenty Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy, ed. G. Lee Bowie, Meredith W. Michaels, and Robert Solomon (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., 1992)

“Caricature,” The Monist, Vol. 58, No. 2 (1974), 285-293.

-- Reprinted in The Philosophy of the Visual Arts ed. Philip Alperson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992).

-- Reprinted in Nelson Goodman’s Philosophy of Art, ed. Catherine Elgin (Garland, 1997).

#### Dictionary, Encyclopedia, and Electronic Entries:

“Environmental Aesthetics” in The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Vol. 3, pp. 254-258.

“The Aesthetics of Gardens” in The Routledge Encyclopedia of Aesthetics On-Line, ed. by Edward Craig.

“Meaning-Making and Degrees of Freedom” in The Exhibitionist (the journal of the National Association for Museum Exhibition), Vol. 18 No. 2 (1999), 27-29.

“The Picturesque” in The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, ed. by Michael Kelly (Oxford University Press, 1998), 511-15.

“Expression “ in The Dictionary of Art, ed. by Jane Shoaf Turner (Groves Dictionary of Music, 1996), 689-92.

“What is Environmental Art?” (10 ms. pages) in the International Aesthetics Webzine, ed. by Anita Septa and Emily Brady.

#### Conference Presentations and Submissions

“What Should Critics Do? The Case of Literature” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division Meeting, Asilomar, 2013

“Comparing and Sharing Taste: Reflections on Levinson on Hume,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Fall Meeting, Tampa, 2011

“Comments on Jonathan Maskit’s “The Aesthetics of Elsewhere,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Fall Meeting, Denver, 2009

“Comments on Ron Moore’s Syncretic Theory of Natural Beauty,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Fall Meeting, Northampton, 2008

“Would Ideal Critics Disagree and Would it Matter?” Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle, April 2008

“Reconstructing Hume and Restaurant Criticism,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Fall Meeting, Los Angeles, 2007

“Human Critics: Real or Ideal?” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division, Spring 2007

“Identifying Critic Clusters: Mitigated Aesthetic Nonrealism,” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, Spring 2006.

“A Plea for Partial and Imperfect Appreciation,” American Society for Aesthetics, Houston, Fall 2004.

#### Edited Works

“Matters of the Mind,” conference proceedings published in Synthese Vol 53 No. 2 (1982), 203 pp., co-edited with Paul Roth.

#### Pedagogical Projects

New web-based course: “Philosophy Looks at the Arts.”

I created this course to replace an outdated telecourse, “The Humanities through the Arts,” that our Department had been offering for many years. I wrote an introductory essay plus essays for each of the 8 arts covered -- painting, photography, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, drama, and film. I also wrote study questions for the assigned reading in an accompanying textbook and created online quizzes, Discussion Board questions, and paper assignments for each of the 9 units. The assignments send students out into the St. Louis community to experience and write about the arts in our area.

#### Honors, Seminars, Awards

Featured Interviewee, Prairie Public Radio program “Why? Philosophical Discussions about Everyday Life

<http://www.philosophyinpubliclife.org/Why/previousepisodes/episode53.html>

UM Research Board Award, “Two Thumbs Up: How Critics Aid Appreciation,” Fall 2013

Trustee, American Society for Aesthetics, 2010-2013

Research Fellow, Oregon State University Center for the Humanities, Spring 2008

Program Chair, 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, American Society for Aesthetics, 2006

Keynote Speaker, International Institute for Applied Aesthetics Conference, “Gardens and Urban Nature,” Lahti, Finland, 2005

NEH Summer Institute: “Art, Mind, and Cognitive Science”

Jerrold Levinson, Dominic Lopes, and Jenefer Robinson, 2002

UM - St. Louis Research Award, “Domains of Value,” Fall 1998

University of Missouri Research Board Grant, “Gardens’ Powers, Photos and Permissions,” Winter 1997

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, \$5000 award to support inclusion of color plates in What Gardens Mean, Fall 1997

NEH Summer Institute: “Institutions of Enlightenment: The Invention of the Public Sphere,” John Bender and Keith Baker, Summer 1995

Participant: Wakonse Conference on College Teaching, May 1995

University of Missouri Research Board Grant, “Gardens’ Powers,” Fall 1994

Program Director, American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division Meeting, April 1993

Short-Term Fellowship, Yale Center for British Art, Nov. 1990

Huntington Library NEH Fellowship, Jan. - June 1989  
Trustee, American Society for Aesthetics, 1986-1989  
UM - St. Louis Summer Research Fellowship, "Gardens and Painting," 1984  
Aston Magna Academy, "European and American Arts in the Age of Revolution c. 1770-1800,"  
Summer, 1983  
Aston Magna Academy, "Music, Art, Theatre, and Dance in the Age of Louis XIV (1661-1715),  
Summer, 1982  
Co-Recipient of \$13,000 Weldon Springs Grant to stage the conference "Matters of the Mind" at  
UM - St. Louis, 1981  
NEH Summer Seminar "The Moral Force of the Passions," Amelie Rorty, Summer, 1980  
NSF Chautauqua Course "Theories of Perception," Peter Machamer, Winter, 1978  
UM - St. Louis Summer Research Fellowship, "Belief and Attitude," 1978

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association  
American Society for Aesthetics