



# Reading Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art: Selected Texts with Interactive Commentary

By Christopher Janaway



## Reading Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art: Selected Texts with Interactive Commentary By Christopher Janaway

Designed for readers with no or little prior knowledge of the subject, this concise anthology brings together key texts in aesthetics and the philosophy of art.

- Designed for readers with no or little prior knowledge of the subject.
- Presents two contrasting pieces on each of six topics.
- Texts range from Plato's famous critique of art in the 'Republic' through Nietzsche's 'The Birth of Tragedy' to Barthes' 'The Death of the Author' and pieces in recent philosophical aesthetics from a number of traditions.
- Interactive editorial commentary helps readers to engage with the philosophical train of thought.
- Explains the argumentative and historical context in which each piece was written.
- Includes questions for debate and suggestions for further reading.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A thoughtful and creative selection of the very best work in aesthetics and philosophy of art brought to life with clear, fresh, and insightful commentaries – there is nothing like it." *Dominic McIver Lopes, University of British Columbia*

"Through a careful and varied selection of writings, supported by clear and succinct commentary, Janaway's volume succeeds very well in its aim of introducing the philosophy of art and the aesthetic in a way that will allow those new to the subject to grasp its interest and importance." *Sebastian Gardner, University College London*

#### From the Back Cover

Designed for readers with no or little prior knowledge of the subject, this concise anthology brings together key texts in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. Two contrasting views are presented on each of six topics, with the texts either reprinted in their entirety or extracted where appropriate. They range from Plato's famous critique of art in the *Republic*, through Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*, to Barthes' *The Death of the Author*, and pieces in recent philosophical aesthetics from a number of traditions.

Each of the texts is accompanied by interactive editorial commentary, helping the reader to engage with the philosophical train of thought. The commentary explains the argumentative and historical context in which the piece was written, and draws out related methodological issues. Where relevant, the editor also highlights concerns about the nature of the subject, suggesting that much of what is discussed under the label 'aesthetics' is, in fact, better termed 'philosophy of art'. For each topic, questions for debate and a short annotated bibliography are provided.

#### About the Author

**Christopher Janaway** is Professor of Philosophy at University of Southampton. His recent publications include *Schopenhauer: A Very Short Introduction* (2002) and *Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners* (co-edited with Samuel Guttenplan and Jennifer Hornsby, Blackwell, 2003).

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**Justin Mireles:**

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