

Editorial Introduction

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This issue of *Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Journal of Social Sciences* focuses on 'Critical Aesthetic Debates'.

Aesthetics is the name we gave to a category that, in the last two centuries, has made it possible for us to identify art objects, forms of experience and thoughts on art. The field of aesthetics can be discussed in terms of the work, the spectator, the artist, the forms of experience of time and space, aesthetic judgment and taste, which directly concern the phenomenon of art. It can also be problematized through sensation, emotions, interaction and relationality concerning the sensory field in a more general sense. Aesthetic debates revolving around the question 'what is beautiful' have brought about a radical transformation towards the question 'what is art' in the context of contemporary aesthetics. The debate on what art is, on the other hand, historically suspends the question of beauty by engaging with the political and social transformation of the world while coming to terms with aesthetic issues within itself. This attitude refers to an epoch that has moved away from a philosophical jargon that considers the concept of the beautiful as an ideal, and has begun to think of aesthetic issues more as the results of cultural and sociological changes.

Understood as sensory and cognitive arrangements that reveal heterogeneous forces, aesthetics is also the ground for thinking about modes of creating and producing and their corresponding forms of visibility. In this respect, aesthetic thought proposes the forms of art as a common form of life, both thinkable and visible. This view, which takes aesthetics out of being a mere theory, aims to reveal it both in terms of its singularity and in a historical structure through the idea of an organism. In all these respects, we would like to discuss aesthetics as a field that requires an interdisciplinary approach through the critical contributions of different disciplines, especially philosophy, history, sociology, and art history, in this issue of our journal.

The articles in this issue primarily include critical discussions on aesthetic judgement, judgement of taste and aesthetic value with reference to the experience of natural beauty and the sublime. Focusing on the parallels between aesthetic practices and political practices, the articles examine the relationship between aesthetics and politics through the idea of aesthetic revolution and question the tendencies regarding the nature of aesthetic experience and sensation with reference to the crisis between meaning and image. Contemporary aesthetic debates that encourage theoretical and empirical disciplines such as bodily perception, relational aesthetics, and aesthetics as a regime of thought are the focus of this issue.

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