

The Ideology of
the Aesthetic

Terry Eagleton

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The Ideology of the Aesthetic presents a history and critique of the concept of the aesthetic throughout modern Western thought. As such, this is a critical survey of modern Western philosophy, focusing in particular on the complex relations between aesthetics, ethics and politics. Eagleton provides a brilliant and challenging introduction to these concerns, as characterized in the work of Kant, Schiller, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Heidegger, Lukacs, Adorno, Habermas, and others.

Wide in span, as well as morally and politically committed, this is Terry Eagleton's major work to date. It forms both an original enquiry and an exemplary introduction.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Although not a history of aesthetics, Eagleton's new book traces the relationship between aesthetics and political interests from the Enlightenment through post-modernism, aiming at a Marxist philosophy of the body. While starting with Shaftesbury, Hume, and Burke, he is primarily concerned with the contribution of the German philosophical tradition. He is especially interested in the Hegelians from Hegel and Marx to Benjamin, Adorno, and Habermas, and the anti-Hegelians from Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche to Heidegger and Foucault. As with his many earlier books on literary theory and Marxist aesthetics (e.g., *Literary Theory*, LJ 8/83), Eagleton's new volume is marked both by its clarity and its commitment.

-T.L. Cooksey, Armstrong State Coll., Savannah, Ga.

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Review

"That contemporary theory would eventually turn back to consider its origins in the contradictions of philosophical aesthetics was predictable; but nothing could have prepared us for Eagleton's extraordinary confrontation with the entire modern history of this discourse, in a book which will be indispensable for years to come."

F. R. Jameson, Duke University

"Eagleton succeeds brilliantly in situating aesthetic theory as an irreducibly heterogeneous series of discourses whose ideological and political effect on North Atlantic civilization since the Enlightenment has been more diverse and consequential than traditional philosophical, literary, and cultural theory has previously suspected or acknowledged."

Choice

Language Notes

Text: Russian

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Strickland:

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