



Frequently Asked Questions

The American Society for Aesthetics

How does the ASA understand “aesthetics”?

“Aesthetics,” as stated at ASA’s founding in 1942, is understood to include all studies of the arts and related types of experience from a philosophic, scientific, or other theoretical standpoint, including those of psychology, sociology, anthropology, cultural history, art criticism, and education. ASA members today comprise this broad spectrum of theoretical studies of the arts, as well as practicing artists with interests in aesthetics.

What activities does ASA promote?

ASA’s original goal was to promote study, research, discussion, and publication in aesthetics. Today, ASA conducts an annual fall meeting and four divisional meetings throughout the year, with presentation of academic papers and discussion, panel discussions on a wide range of topics, and guest lectures by prominent artists. It publishes a quarterly journal, the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, and the *ASA Newsletter* three times a year. ASA also co-sponsors conferences and other activities in aesthetics through its grant-making program.

Which art forms does ASA address?

The ASA is interested in the wide spectrum of the arts, including the visual arts, literature, music, and theater arts. It welcomes consideration of both classical and contemporary art forms, as well as both Western and non-Western art.

Who can become a member of the ASA?

The ASA welcomes membership from anyone interested in aesthetics, including professors, practicing artists, students, and the general public. There are no membership restrictions. Although 80% of the members reside in North America, ASA also has members on virtually every continent.

Does ASA operate a career center for those seeking employment?

Although ASA shares information from time to time on employment opportunities in aesthetics (especially on its Facebook page), it does not run a formal career center or advertisement service.

What are the benefits of being a member of ASA?

- *Members get print copies of *JAAC* (four per year).
- *Members get immediate access to the latest issues of *JAAC* via the web site of Oxford, the publisher. (Databases such as JStor have a three-year delay in availability.)
- *Student members are eligible for travel support to the annual meeting if they have a paper accepted.
- *Only ASA members can apply for the Dissertation Fellowship, the Monograph Prize, the John Fisher Prize, the Somaesthetics Research Prize, the Feminist Research Prize, the Selma Jeanne Cohen Prize in Dance Aesthetics, and Major Grants.
- *Only ASA members can serve as editors, trustees, or officers of the Society.
- *Only ASA members may present papers or commentaries at the annual meeting.
- *All divisional meetings require that program participants be ASA members.
- *Only members can access the Members section of the new web site, which includes current and historic records of the ASA.
- *Only members can vote in elections for trustees and officers.
- *ASA members receive a 20% discount on all Oxford University Press hardcover titles.

What is a GREEN ASA membership?

Green memberships are available in all membership categories (student, unemployed, regular, emeritus). They are substantially more economical than traditional memberships. Green members enjoy all membership benefits with one exception, viz., they do not receive print copies of *JAAC*. They do have immediate access to *JAAC* on-line at the Oxford web site.

Does ASA provide travel grants to present work at its meetings?

- *For the ASA Annual Meeting:
 - *All students with papers or panel presentations accepted for the program receive a travel grant. There is no upper-limit on the number of these grants.
 - *For persons with papers or panel presentations accepted for the program who do not have institutional support, ASA offers six Irene H. Chayes Travel Grants and several Friends of ASA travel grants (depending on the fund-raising success in the previous year).
- *For the ASA Divisional Meetings (Pacific, Eastern, Southern, Rocky Mountain):
 - *The ASA provides each division with \$1000 for Irene H. Chayes travel grants for persons with accepted papers who do not have institutional support
 - *Several Divisions provide additional travel funding from their own revenues and donations

Does ASA provide information about aesthetics for people who have not yet decided to join?

- *Persons who are not members of ASA can read the *ASA Newsletter* on the ASA web site.
- *They can read *JAAC* at University databases (such as JStor) three years after publication.
- *Most of the ASA web site is available to the public, and includes bibliographies, teaching materials, and other resources on aesthetics.
- *Anyone can attend ASA meetings, although the registration fee for non-members is considerably higher than for members.

Does the ASA have a Twitter feed?

Yes. Follow ASA @ASA_aesthetics You do not need to be an ASA member.

Does the ASA have a Facebook page?

Yes. ASA has a Facebook-group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7399905817/> You do not need to be an ASA member to join. ASA also has a Facebook page for official announcements, open to anyone: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanSocietyForAesthetics/>

How can I get answers to other questions I have?

Please send your questions to: secretary-treasurer@aesthetics-online.org

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