

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

### *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

#### **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

We acknowledge and thank Jonathan Neufeld, the JAAC Book Review Editor, and his editorial assistant, Patrick Wohlscheid, for their excellent work. Jean Renslow, editorial assistant, and Raelyn Aro, administrative assistant, have provided invaluable service to JAAC this year. Special thanks are due to Central Michigan University and Minnesota State University Moorhead for their support of JAAC and its operations. We also thank Julie Van Camp, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society for Aesthetics, and David Davies, President of the Society, for their continuing advice and assistance. We also thank our new publisher, Oxford University Press, for a smooth transition and for ongoing assistance in a great many matters.

#### **JAAC EDITORSHIP**

The term of service of the current JAAC co-editors runs until the end of January, 2023. The ASA issued a call for applications for JAAC editor, and formed a search committee, chaired by Rachel Zuckert. Following the deadline for applications, the search committee reviewed application materials and interviewed candidates, leading to a recommendation that Jonathan Gilmore and Sandra Shapshay be appointed as the new co-editors of JAAC. The ASA Board of Trustees ratified that recommendation and Gilmore and Shapshay will begin a five-year term as editors on February 1, 2023. (Editors are eligible for multiples terms as editors.)

Gilmore received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1999. He is currently Associate Professor of Philosophy at The CUNY Graduate Center and Baruch College. Previously, he was Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Yale University and held a three-year Cotsen Fellowship in The Society of Fellows at Princeton University. He writes on the imagination, philosophy of literature, philosophy of painting and sculpture, artistic style, censorship and freedom of expression, 20th-century European Philosophy (particularly Merleau-Ponty), ethics and aesthetics, theories of the emotions, the cognitive science of art, and the history of Modern Art. He is also a widely published art critic.

Shapshay likewise earned her Ph.D. at Columbia University (in 2001). Currently she is Professor of Philosophy at Hunter College & the CUNY Graduate Center. Before coming to CUNY in 2019,

she taught at Indiana University-Bloomington for 17 years. Her research centers on aesthetics and ethics in the 19th c. (with focus on Schopenhauer and Kant), environmental aesthetics, theories of the sublime, and the aesthetics & ethics of public commemorative art such as monuments and memorials. In 2018 she co-edited with Levi Tenen, a JAAC special issue, “The Good, the Beautiful and the Green: Aesthetics and Environmentalism.”

The City University of New York has made substantial commitments in support of the co-editors and the journal, including office space, student assistance, and assigned time. Final negotiations are now underway with the co-editors-designate and CUNY to finalize the appointments.

### **PEER REVIEW**

The quality of the Journal depends on the many scholars who volunteer their time to serve as peer evaluators of submissions. For reasons that appear related to the worldwide disruptions caused by the current pandemic, the time required for peer review for submitted articles has become more variable. While most are evaluated in approximately two months, an increasing number of peer reviewers have needed additional time to submit their reports. Members of the Society who are interested in serving as referees should contact the editors. A list of recent referees is published in the first issue of the Journal every year.

### **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

**Change of Publisher.** JAAC started 2021 with a new publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP). This change brought new benefits to ASA members including online access to all material published in the Journal, dating back to our initial publication in 1941. A second benefit is that advance copies of all material are released on the OUP website (<https://academic.oup.com/jaac>) as soon as they clear proofreading with authors. The move to OUP also provided an opportunity to redesign the journal’s appearance. To achieve greater legibility for PDF copies, JAAC moved away from the double-column format that was familiar to long-time readers. OUP also worked with editors Stecker and Gracyk to redesign JAAC’s cover.

**Production Schedule.** Since last year’s Editor’s Report, we have published Vol. 78, no. 4 (Fall 2020, the Special Issue on Stand-Up Comedy and Philosophy, guest edited by Sheila Lintott) and Vol. 79, nos. 1-3 (Winter, Spring, Summer). No. 4 will be shipped to ASA members in the first week of November.

In Volume 79 we published 27 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 6 discussion pieces (including invited responses). An additional 9 shorter articles were published in two symposia:

empathy and literature (Volume 79, no. 2), and Stephen Davies's recent monograph on the aesthetics of personal adornment (Volume 79, no. 4).

In comparison:

- Volume 78 published 28 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 10 discussion pieces (including invited responses), and 8 shorter articles in two symposia: one on the 50th anniversary of the publication of Walton's "Categories of Art," and one on installation art.
- Volume 77 held 30 articles and 5 discussion pieces (and no symposia).
- Volume 76 saw publication of 33 articles, and 5 discussion pieces (and no symposia).
- Volume 75 saw publication of 30 articles, and 8 discussion essays (and no symposia).
- Volume 74 saw publication of 22 articles, and 3 discussion essays (and no symposia).
- Volume 73 held 25 articles, six discussion exchanges, and two symposia consisting of 9 short articles.

Advance articles appear at <https://academic.oup.com/jaac> almost immediately following completion of the page proof process. However, material is not assigned page numbers or permanent DOI number until the issue receives official publication, a date roughly corresponding to the shipping date of physical copies.

The tentative schedule for the appearance of Volume 80 (2022) is as follows.

Vol. 80, no. 1 (Winter): print shipping early Feb 2022

Vol. 80, no. 2 (Spring): print shipping early May 2022

Vol. 80, no. 3 (Summer): print shipping early Aug 2022

Vol. 80, no. 4 (Fall): print shipping early Nov 2022

**New Manuscripts.** We received 232 submissions between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, of which 220 were submitted as articles and 12 as discussion. In comparison with the previous year, there were fewer articles submitted from countries where open access publishing is emphasized. However, the total number of article submissions remained higher than our 10-year average. Of the total submitted, 31 articles and 6 discussions were accepted for publication, and the remainder rejected. This translates to an acceptance rate of 14% for articles (or 16% for articles plus discussions).

Additional data about submissions and acceptance rates is included as an appendix to this report.

Referees continue to provide constructive comments to authors. Our current working process is to assign a new manuscript to one editor, who identifies potential referees and then reviews their suitability with the second editor before issuing any invitations to referee. We ask referees return their reports within six weeks of accepting a manuscript assignment. The comments of our referees are reviewed by both editors. These comments are often quite extensive and specific for both accepted and rejected papers, and we are gratified by the responses of authors who express their appreciation for the time and attention that referees spend on their papers.

**Book Reviews.** We review books in a wide variety of fields related to aesthetics, criticism, and theories of the arts. Volume 79 published 24 book reviews. In comparison, the previous six years saw 22 reviews, 36 reviews, 27 reviews, 26 reviews, 32 reviews, 26 reviews, and 29 reviews, respectively.

Book reviews are by invitation. Those who would like to write reviews are encouraged to contact Prof. Jonathan Neufeld at College of Charleston and send their CV and an indication of the areas in which they would like to review.

## **PRIZE COMPETITIONS**

The Fisher prize, awarded in alternate years to an original essay in aesthetics, was created in memory of the late John Fisher, editor of *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* from 1973 to 1988. The Prize is offered to foster the development of new voices and talent in the field of aesthetics. Submitted papers are evaluated by a subset of the Journal's editorial board. The 2021 prize competition winner is Claire Anscomb, who will present "Creative Agency as Executive Agency: Grounding the Artistic Significance of Automatic Images" at the upcoming ASA Annual Meeting in Montreal. The paper will appear in JAAC Volume 79, no. 4.

The next Fisher Prize will be awarded in 2023. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2023. Guidelines are posted at the American Society for Aesthetics website and the OUP website.

A new **Social Justice and the Arts** prize competition has been funded by the Society. The deadline for submission will be 15 January 2022. Submitted essays should address social justice and the arts, broadly understood. The essay should be a maximum of 7,500 words. Guidelines are provided at the end of this report and at the American Society for Aesthetics website and the OUP website.

## **SPECIAL ISSUES and SYMPOSIA**

We invite proposals for special issues of the Journal and for specialized symposia on topics under-represented in the Journal.

Our next special issue will address *The Aesthetics of Creative Activism*, to be guest edited by Elspeth Tilley and Nicholas Holm. The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2022 and full details are available in *JAAC* Volume 79, no. 4 and at the end of this report.

Symposia typically consist of three or more relatively brief papers that address a topic of current interest or that introduce a range of views on a new topic. Normally, a symposium dedicated to the discussion of a monograph or the published work of a particular author should make contributions to a topic that is not well represented in the Journal.

Our most recent symposia have addressed empathy and literature (Volume 79, no. 2), and the aesthetics of personal adornment (Volume 79, no. 4), while another featured the winning papers of the ASA's recent special prize competition addressing the work of Peter Kivy (Volume 79, no. 3).

Full guidelines for Special Issue and Symposia proposals are on the OUP *JAAC* website under "Author Guidelines," and on the ASA website under *JAAC*, "Calls and Submissions."

## **OTHER ELECTRONIC MATTERS**

### **Electronic Management through Scholar One.**

All manuscripts continue to be submitted and edited through ScholarOne Manuscripts, which provides journal management to more than 500 scholarly societies.

### **JSTOR Digital Archives.**

All but the most recent issues of the Journal are available via JSTOR, a scholarly journal archive service. Founded in 1994, JSTOR is a non-profit partnership of more than 7,000 libraries and research institutions in 150 countries worldwide that provides access to scholarly materials for participating institutions. They are an archive of the printed version of over 1,500 scholarly journals across 50 disciplines, not merely of individual articles and reviews, and over one million images, letters, and other primary sources. Full search, browse, citation, print and download capabilities are available for all material in *JAAC* after a "rolling wall" of three years. Since 2008, JSTOR has waived or offered reduced fees for more than 1,500 academic and not-for-profit institutions in developing countries and all of Africa. JSTOR sponsors seminars annually for scholarly journal editors and publishers on electronic developments and other current issues in publishing. For further information about JSTOR, see their website, [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org).

**JAAC Website.**

There are two *JAAC* websites. An informational website is incorporated into the general website of the American Society for Aesthetics. The website is regularly updated. The second is maintained by our publisher, Oxford University Press. The two have much the same content, except information about copyright and permissions is located on the publisher's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Stecker and Theodore Gracyk

Editors

## Call for Papers

### Special Issue: The Aesthetics of Creative Activism

#### Guest Editors: Elspeth Tilley and Nicholas Holm

Publication date will be Spring 2023.

Submissions on any philosophically informed exploration of artistic forms as activist interventions., including, but not limited to:

- Ethics and morality in and of artistic activism
- Relationships between aesthetic value and artistic activism
- Affect and effect in and of creative activism
- Race, creativity and social justice: from jazz music to BLM and beyond
- Advancing an aesthetic theory of creative activism
- Didacticism and its discontents
- Pandemic shock, climate grief, and compassion fatigue: artistic responses to overwhelming topics
- Catharsis and creative activism: compatible or opposing forces?
- Creative activists as futurists: the role of artistic imagination in accelerating social change and generating future solutions
- Creative activism evaluation: how does scholarship from aesthetics and art criticism help us determine outcomes and effectiveness?
- First-order change versus second-order change: can art achieve systemic alteration or only awareness and individual empowerment?
- Critically analyzing the forms, claims and creative processes of artistic activism: avoiding art-washing, and challenging assumptions about what works, what has value, and why
- Decolonization, anti-capitalism, and the role of creative activism in resistance or transformation

Submissions should not exceed 7,500 words and must comply with the general guidelines for submissions (see “Author Guidelines” on the JAAC page on the Oxford University Press website:

<https://academic.oup.com/jaac/pages/general-instructions>. Upload submissions to the *JAAC* online submission website, <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jaac>, making sure they are identified as submissions for the special issue.

If you have questions please contact:

Nicholas Holm < N.H.F.Holm@massey.ac.nz> or Elspeth Tilley < E.Tilley@massey.ac.nz>

**Deadline for Submissions: August 1, 2022**

## Call for Papers

### Social Justice and the Arts Prize

The American Society for Aesthetics is pleased to announce the guidelines for a prize for the best paper submitted to the journal on the topic of social justice and the arts.

The regulations for the competition are as follows:

- i. Amount.** The amount of the Prize is **\$1,000**. Additionally, travel support up to \$1000 will be available to present the work at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the ASA. Funds for the prize will be drawn from the revenue from the Irene H. Chayes bequest
- ii. Deadline.** The deadline for submissions is **15 January 2022**.
- iii. Eligibility.** Entrants must be members of the ASA as of the submission deadline.
- iv. Essay Content and Length.** The essay should address social justice and the arts, broadly understood. The essay should be a maximum of 7,500 words. Entries will also be considered for publication in *JAAC*, unless the entrant requests otherwise.
- v. Judging.** The judges for the Prize are drawn from members of the *JAAC* Editorial Board by the editors in consultation with the Board. (The Prize may not be awarded if, in the opinion of the judges, no entry of sufficient merit is received.)
- vi. Presentation.** The winning essay will be published in *JAAC*. The author will also be invited to read the paper at the annual meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in November 2022.
- vii. Submission Requirements.** Submissions may not have been previously published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. Upload submissions to the *JAAC* online submission website, <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jaac>. Submissions should include an abstract. Make sure the submission letter clearly identifies the paper as a submission for the Social Justice and the Arts Prize.
- viii. Questions.** Contact [jaac@cmich.edu](mailto:jaac@cmich.edu).

## **JAAC Statistics for submissions from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021**

**Total number of articles and discussion pieces submitted:** 232

Acceptances: 37 (31 articles and 6 discussions)

Rejections: 191 (185 articles and 6 discussions)

4 undecideds at time of report

Acceptance rate for articles: 14%

Acceptance rate for articles plus discussion pieces: 16%

(In 2019-2020 the acceptance rate was 14.7% for articles and 16.4% overall.)

(In 2018-2019, the acceptance rate was 16% for articles and 17.7% overall)

(In 2017-2018, the acceptance rate was 12% for articles and 12.7% overall)

(In 2016-2017 the acceptance rate was 16% for articles and 17.6% overall)

(In 2015-2016 the acceptance rate was 13.4% for articles and 15.45% overall)

28 article submissions had multiple authors, so the total number of males/females in the following analysis is greater than the number of actual submissions. Classification unknown for 4 rejected articles.

**Total article submissions from female authors:** 80 submitted (10 acceptances; 70 rejections)

Submission rate 31%, Acceptance rate 12.5% (adding discussions, acceptance rate 13.25%)

(2019-20 submission rate 30%, Acceptance rate 17%)

(2018-19 submission rate 38%, Acceptance rate 16.3%)

(2017-18 submission rate 30%, Acceptance rate 19%

(2016-17 submission rate 23%, Acceptance rate 23%)

(2015-16 submission rate 30.1%, Acceptance rate 9.85%)

(2014-15 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 10%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 17.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 31%, acceptance rate 14%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 24%, acceptance rate 11.7%)

**Total article submissions from male authors:** 177 (21 acceptances; 152 rejections, 4 awaiting)

Submission rate 69%, Acceptance rate 11.8% (adding discussions, acceptance rate 14%)

(2019-20 submission rate 70%, Acceptance rate 13.3%)

(2018-19 submission rate 62%, Acceptance rate 15.1%)

(2017-18 submission rate 70%, Acceptance rate 12.4%)

(2016-17 submission rate 77%, Acceptance rate 15.5%)

(2015-16 submission rate 69.9%, Acceptance rate 16.36%)

(2014-15 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 23%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 19.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 69%, acceptance rate 17%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 76%, acceptance rate 11%)