

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

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

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

#### **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 and Sejla Dervisic, editorial assistants, and Raelyn Aro and Edwin Williamson, administrative assistants, 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. At Oxford University Press, we thank Mary Pelosi and Chris Robinson, together with production manager Mariappan Gurunathan for their ongoing assistance with the publication of the Journal.

#### **JAAC EDITORSHIP**

The term of service of the current JAAC co-editors runs until the end of January, 2023. As previously announced, Jonathan Gilmore and Sandra Shapshay begin a five-year term as co-editors on February 1, 2023. (Editors are eligible for multiples terms as editors.) Volume 81, issue 3 will be the first to be published under their editorial control.

#### **PEER REVIEW**

The quality of the Journal depends on the many scholars who volunteer their time to serve as peer evaluators of submissions. As has been reported by a number of journals in recent years, 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

ASA members are advised that our publishing relationship with Oxford University Press includes advance article publishing. Consequently, ASA members are encouraged to visit our OUP portal (<https://academic.oup.com/jaac>) regularly to watch for advance articles. In this system, each article is published as an e-format article on the OUP website prior to the official appearance of the issue that includes it. Advance articles are ones that have been finalized and fully copyedited, released to the publisher, and set for publication. The advance article is normally identical to the final published version with the exception that advance articles do not yet have established page numbers within an issue.

**Production Schedule.** Since last year's Editor's Report, we have published Vol. 79, no. 4 (Fall 2021, and Vol. 80, nos. 1-3 (Winter, Spring, Summer). No. 4 will be shipped to ASA members in the first week of November.

In Volume 80 we published 32 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 1 discussion piece. An additional 10 shorter articles were published in two symposia, on Rachel Zuckert's monograph on Herder's naturalistic aesthetics (Volume 80, no. 2), and Korean aesthetics (Volume 80, no. 3).

In comparison:

- Volume 79 (our first volume with Oxford University Press) held 27 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 6 discussion pieces (including invited responses). An additional 9 shorter articles were published in two symposia.
- Volume 78 held 28 articles (excluding introductory essays), 10 discussion pieces (including invited responses), and two symposia.
- 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.

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

Vol. 81, no. 1 (Winter): print shipping early Feb 2023

Vol. 81, no. 2 (Spring): print shipping early May 2023. This is a special issue on the aesthetics of creative activism.

Vol. 81, no. 3 (Summer): print shipping early Aug 2023

Vol. 81, no. 4 (Fall): print shipping early Nov 2023

**New Manuscripts.** We received 213 submissions between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, of which 211 were submitted as articles and 2 as discussion. The total number of article submissions remained higher than our 10-year average. Of the total submitted, 29 articles and 1 discussion were accepted for publication, and the remainder rejected. This translates to an acceptance rate of 13.7% for articles (or 14% 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 80 published 14 book reviews. In comparison, the previous seven years saw 24 reviews, 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 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.

On the recommendation of the JAAC editorial board, a new Social Justice and the Arts prize was funded by the Society. There were numerous submissions for this prize and the winner is Daisy Dixon, for "Artistic (Counter)Speech."

## **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 was August 1, 2022 and the issue is scheduled to appear as Volume 81, issue 2. We were pleased that this issue received more submissions than any such issue during the past ten years.

We have an active call for submissions to another special issue, The Art and Aesthetics of Capitalism, to be guest edited by Brian Soucek and Melissa Zinkin. It will be published as the spring issue, 2024, and a copy of the call for papers is attached as an appendix to 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.

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 NEWS**

The *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* ranks #4 in a major national study of women authors published in philosophy journals from 2000-2009. The study was published in *Ethics* 132:3 (April 2022): "The Past 110 Years: Historical Data on the Underrepresentation of Women in Philosophy Journals," by Nicole Hassoun, Sherri Conklin, Michael Nekrasov, and Jevin West. The complete article is open access: <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/718075>

The study examined philosophy journals available in JSTOR. Of the fifty-six journals examined, the only three journals with higher rankings than JAAC are *Hypatia*, *Inquiry*, and *Journal of*

*Nietzsche Studies*. As explained by the study's authors: "For each journal, we compute the total proportion of women authors across all articles and years and sort them by highest proportion of women authorships." The study found that men authored slightly over 86% of all published articles in the journals that fell within the scope of the study.

The study examined authorship through 2009. Both the current and past editors of JAAC have adopted best current practices to ensure that we are publishing the broadest possible range of voices and perspectives from our interdisciplinary community of scholars. For this, we also thank the judgment of our editorial board, the guest editors of symposia and special issues, and the ongoing work of the ASA's Feminist Caucus Committee and Diversity Committee."

## **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.

### **Changes to Open Access Publishing by American Scholars**

On August 25, 2022, the Federal Government of the United States issued new guidelines for Federally-funded research, requiring that published research supported by Federal funding must be available at no cost to the public. In short, research funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities or any other Federal agency will be open access if published in JAAC. Federal agencies such as the NEH are currently revising their guidelines for researchers who are tax-funded, and the new public-access policies must be in place at the end of 2025. At present, we receive relatively few submissions that acknowledge Federal funding, and therefore we anticipate minimal impact on JAAC. However, in partnership with Oxford University Press we are closely monitoring the potential impact of this new policy. More details can be learned here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/08/25/ostp-issues-guidance-to-make-federally-funded-research-freely-available-without-delay/>

### **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 Art and Aesthetics of Capitalism

Guest Editors: Brian Soucek and Melissa Zinkin

Publication date will be Spring 2024.

Submissions on any philosophically informed explorations of how issues connected to markets, appraisals, property, and labor relate to aesthetics and the philosophy of art. Topics and questions may include, but are not limited to:

- The value of artistic labor.
- The ethics of contemporary forms of artistic patronage.
- Is there an aesthetics of capital? An anti-capitalist aesthetics?
- Is art a special kind of property?
- The relationship between artistic value and market value. Kant writes that there are three kinds of value: what satisfies our needs and has a “market price,” what causes delight and has a “fancy price,” and what has an inner worth and “dignity.” Is it the case that art does not have dignity, but just a fancy price? What is the difference between a fancy price and a market price?
- Does the art market serve to make distinctions between different forms of art and their aesthetic value? For example, between works that can be copied or forged (autographic works) and works that can have multiple instantiations, such as musical scores (allographic works); or, between fair use versus illegal copying?
- Art and capital in the history of aesthetics.
- The current state of critical theory: Do the classic critiques of art and capitalism from the 20th century still hold up today?

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:

Melissa Zinkin <[mzinkin@binghamton.edu](mailto:mzinkin@binghamton.edu)> and Brian Soucek <[bsoucek@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bsoucek@ucdavis.edu)>

**Deadline for Submissions: June 1, 2023**

## **JAAC Statistics for submissions from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

**Total number of articles and discussion pieces submitted:** 213

Acceptances: 30 (29 articles and 1 discussion piece)

Rejections: 182 (182 articles)

No submissions lacking decisions at time of report

Acceptance rate for articles: 13.7%

Acceptance rate for articles plus discussion pieces: 14%

26 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 8 rejected articles.

**Total article submissions from female authors:** 72 submitted (11 acceptances; 61 rejections)

Submission rate 30%, Acceptance rate 15.3%

No discussion pieces submitted

**Total article submissions from male authors:** 166 (22 acceptances; 144 rejections)

Submission rate 70%, Acceptance rate 13.2% (adding discussions, acceptance rate 13.25%)

For purposes of comparison, here is raw data drawn from 10 years of past reports, the annual analysis, and cumulative analysis of that data. Keep in mind that some papers are co-authored and therefore the number of submits in column 2 is less than the sum of “male submit” added to “female submit.”

YEAR	Submits	Accepted	Male submit	Male accepted	Female submit	Female accepted
12-13	182	30 (16.5%)	129	22 (17%)	58	8 (14%)
13-14	189	34 (18%)	156	30 (19.2%)	64	11 (17.2%)
14-15	189	31 (16.4%)	144	33 (23%)	59	6 (10%)
15-16	207	32 (15.4%)	165	27 (16.36%)	71	7 (9.8%)
Discussion pieces not included from this point						
16-17	189	30 (16%)	155	24 (15.5%)	47	11 (23%)
17-18	170	24 (14%)	129	16 (12.4%)	57	11 (19%)
18-19	214	35 (16.3%)	152	23 (15.1%)	92	15 (16.3%)
19-20	272	40 (14.7%)	211	28 (13.3%)	87	15 (17%)
20-21	220	31 (14%)	177	21 (11.8%)	80	10 (12.5%)
21-22	211	29 (13.7%)	166	22 (13.2%)	72	11 (15.3%)
Cumulative	2043	296 (14.5%)	1584	246 (15.5%)	687	105 (15.3%)

Overall average: 30% submits female authors, 70% male authors. This ratio is extremely stable with the exception of two years (2011-12, 2016-17) in which there was a higher rate of male-authored submissions and one year (2018-19) with a higher rate of female-authored submissions.