



## 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 three divisional meetings in the spring, 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. It also sponsors *ASAGE*, the ASA Graduate E-Journal, published on-line twice 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 Twitter feed), it does not run a formal career center or advertisement service. ASA is exploring opportunities in non-traditional careers (other than teaching) for persons with advanced degrees in aesthetics and hopes to share information at future meetings.

### **What are the benefits of being a member of ASA?**

- \*Members get print copies of *JAAC* (four per year) and the *ASA Newsletter* (three per year).
- \*Members get immediate access to the latest issues of *JAAC* via the web site of Wiley, the publisher. (Databases such as JStor have a one-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 Ted Cohen Prize, 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.
- \*Beginning in 2016, all regional 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.
- \*In 2016, ASA members have on-line access for one-year to the new *Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, 2d ed.* and a 40% discount on purchase of the hard-copy edition.
- \*In 2016, ASA members have six months access to *Grove Art Outline* and *Benezit Dictionary of Artists*, followed by a 20% discount on subscription rates for continued access.
- \*ASA members receive a 20% discount on all Oxford University Press hardcover titles.

### **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 after print publication.
- \*They can read *JAAC* at University databases (such as JStor) one year 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](mailto:secretary-treasurer@aesthetics-online.org)

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