

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

KANT'S THEORY OF TASTE

This book constitutes one of the most important contributions to recent Kant scholarship. In it, one of the preeminent interpreters of Kant, Henry E. Allison, offers a comprehensive, systematic, and philosophically astute account of all aspects of Kant's views on aesthetics.

Since the structure of the book maps closely on to the text of the *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment* (the first and most important part of the *Critique of Judgment*), it serves as a kind of commentary, with chapters serving as companion pieces to the different sections of Kant's work. This makes the book useful to both specialists and students tackling the *Critique of Judgment* for the first time and seeking an authoritative guide to the text.

The first part of the book analyzes Kant's conception of reflective judgment and its connections with both empirical knowledge and judgments of taste. The second and third parts treat two questions that Allison insists must be kept distinct: the normativity of pure judgments of taste, and the moral and systematic significance of taste. The fourth part considers two important topics often neglected in the study of Kant's aesthetics: his conceptions of fine art, and the sublime.

No one with a serious interest in Kant's aesthetics can afford to ignore this groundbreaking study.

Henry E. Allison is Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. His two most recent books, both published by Cambridge University Press, are *Kant's Theory of Freedom* (1990) and *Idealism and Freedom* (1996).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

General Editor

Robert B. Pippin, University of Chicago

Advisory Board

Gary Gutting, University of Notre Dame

Rolf-Peter Horstmann, Humboldt University, Berlin

Mark Sacks, University of Essex

*Some Recent Titles:*Frederick A. Olafson: *What Is a Human Being?*Stanley Rosen: *The Mask of Enlightenment: Nietzsche's Zarathustra*Robert C. Scharff: *Comte after Positivism*F. C. T. Moore: *Bergson: Thinking Backwards*Charles Larmore: *The Morals of Modernity*Robert B. Pippin: *Idealism as Modernism*Daniel W. Conway: *Nietzsche's Dangerous Game*John P. McCormick: *Carl Schmitt's Critique of Liberalism*Frederick A. Olafson: *Heidegger and the Ground of Ethics*Günter Zöller: *Fichte's Transcendental Philosophy*Warren Breckman: *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory*William Blattner: *Heidegger's Temporal Idealism*Charles Griswold: *Adam Smith and the Virtues of the Enlightenment*Gary Gutting: *Pragmatic Liberalism and the Critique of Modernity*Allen Wood: *Kant's Ethical Thought*Karl Ameriks: *Kant and the Fate of Autonomy*Alfredo Ferrarin: *Hegel and Aristotle*Cristina Lafont: *Heidegger, Language and World-Disclosure*Nicholas Wolterstorff: *Thomas Reid and the Story of Epistemology*Daniel Dahlstrom: *Heidegger's Concept of Truth*Michelle Grier: *Kant's Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

KANT'S THEORY OF TASTE

A Reading of the *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*

HENRY E. ALLISON

Boston University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521791540

© Henry E. Allison 2001

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2001

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Allison, Henry E.

Kant's theory of taste: a reading of the Critique of aesthetic judgment / Henry E. Allison.
p. cm – (Modern European Philosophy)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-79154-5 – ISBN 0-521-79534-6 (pbk.)

1. Kant, Immanuel, 1724–1804. Kritik der ästhetischen Urteilskraft. 2. Aesthetics – Early works to 1800. 3. Judgment (Aesthetics) – Early works to 1800. I. Title. II. Series.

B2784 .A45 2000

111'.85–dc21

00-03426

ISBN 978-0-521-79154-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-79534-0 Paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2009

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables and other factual information given in this work are correct at the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To Renee

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Note on Sources and Key to Abbreviations and Translations</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
PART I. KANT'S CONCEPTION OF REFLECTIVE JUDGMENT	
1 Reflective Judgment and the Purposiveness of Nature	13
2 Reflection and Taste in the Introductions	43
PART II. THE <i>QUID FACTI</i> AND THE <i>QUID JURIS</i> IN THE DOMAIN OF TASTE	
3 The Analytic of the Beautiful and the <i>Quid Facti</i> : An Overview	67
4 The Disinterestedness of the Pure Judgment of Taste	85
5 Subjective Universality, the Universal Voice, and the Harmony of the Faculties	98
6 Beauty, Purposiveness, and Form	119
7 The Modality of Taste and the <i>Sensus Communis</i>	144
8 The Deduction of Pure Judgments of Taste	160
PART III. THE MORAL AND SYSTEMATIC SIGNIFICANCE OF TASTE	
9 Reflective Judgment and the Transition from Nature to Freedom	195
10 Beauty, Duty, and Interest: The Moral Significance of Natural Beauty	219

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS

11 The Antinomy of Taste and Beauty as a Symbol of Morality 236

PART IV. PARERGA TO THE THEORY OF TASTE

12 Fine Art and Genius 271

13 The Sublime 302

Notes 345*Bibliography* 405*Index* 415

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As is almost always the case with works of this sort, which reflect the labor of many years, one is indebted to too many people to mention. Particular thanks are due, however, to Hannah Ginsborg for her careful reading of virtually the entire manuscript in its “semifinal” form. Although I am sure that she will still have much to criticize, I am convinced that it is a significantly better piece of work as a result of her comments than it would otherwise have been. I am likewise grateful to Béatrice Longuenesse for her valuable comments on the first chapter of the book, where I attempt to make use of some of her own very exciting work, as well as to two anonymous referees for Cambridge University Press, whose suggestions I have frequently followed.

I also owe a major debt to my many students in the seminars on the third *Critique* that I have given in the past ten years at UCSD, Boston University, and the University of Oslo. Since this, like my earlier books on Kant, is largely a product of my interchange with my students (and occasionally faculty) in the seminars, I am grateful to them for their comments, questions, criticisms, and, indeed, for their interest. And, once again, I must express my deep gratitude to my wife, Norma, for her continued support of my work despite the great disruption in both of our lives (but especially hers) caused by our move from the West to the East Coast.

Finally, I would like to thank the Hackett Publishing Company for their kind permission to quote extensively from their edition of Werner Pluhar's translation of Kant's *Critique of Judgment*; to Katrien Vander Straeten for her invaluable assistance in the preparation of the manuscript; and to Mary Troxell for the laborious task of preparing the index.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTE ON SOURCES AND KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS

Apart from the *Critique of Pure Reason*, all references to Kant are to the volume and page of *Kants gesammelte Schriften* (KGS), herausgegeben von der Deutschen (formerly Königlichen Preussischen) Akademie der Wissenschaften, 29 vols. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1902). References to the *Critique of Pure Reason* are to the standard A and B pagination of the first and second editions. Specific works cited are referred to by means of the abbreviations listed below. The translations used are also listed below and, except in the case of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, are referred to immediately following the reference to the volume and page of the German text. It should be noted, however, that I have frequently modified these translations, particularly in the case of citations from the *Critique of Judgment*. Where there is no reference to an English translation, either the translation is my own or the text is referred to but not cited.

A/B	<i>Kritik der reinen Vernunft</i> (KGS 3–4). <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , N. Kemp Smith, trans. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965.
Anthro	<i>Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht</i> (KGS 7). <i>Anthropology from a Practical Point of View</i> , Mary J. Gregor, trans. The Hague: Nijhoff, 1974.
Anthro B	<i>Anthropologie Busolt</i> (KGS 25).
Anthro C	<i>Anthropologie Collins</i> (KGS 25).
Anthro F	<i>Anthropologie Friedlander</i> (KGS 25).
Anthro M	<i>Anthropologie Mrongovius</i> (KGS 25).
Anthro P	<i>Anthropologie Pillau</i> (KGS 25).
BDG	<i>Der einzig mögliche Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Daseins Gottes</i> (KGS 2).
Beob	<i>Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen</i> (KGS 2). <i>Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sub-</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

NOTE ON SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- lime*, John T. Goldthwait, trans. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1960.
- BL *Logik Blomberg* (KGS 24). *The Blomberg Logic, Lectures on Logic*, Michael Young, trans. (*The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 5–246.
- Br *Kants Briefwechsel* (KGS 10–13).
- Diss *De Mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis* (KGS 2). *Concerning the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible World* (The Inaugural Dissertation), David Walford and Ralf Meerbote, trans. and eds. *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant; Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 377–416.
- FI *Erste Einleitung in die Kritik der Urteilstkraft* (KGS 20). First Introduction to the *Critique of Judgment*. *Critique of Judgment*, Werner Pluhar, trans. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987, pp. 385–441.
- Fire “Meditationem quarandum de igne succincta delineatio” (KGS 1).
- Fort *Welches sind die wirklichen Fortschritte, die die Metaphysik seit Leibnizens und Wolf's Zeiten in Deutschland gemacht hat?* (KGS 20).
- Gr *Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten* (KGS 4). *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, H. J. Paton, trans. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.
- GTP *Über den Gebrauch teleologischer Principien in der Philosophie* (KGS 8).
- IAG “Idee zu einer allgemeinen Geschichte in weltbürgerlicher Absicht” (KGS8).
- JL *Jäsche Logik* (KGS 9). *The Jäsche Logic, Lectures on Logic*, Michael Young, trans., pp. 521–640.
- KpV *Kritik der praktischen Vernunft* (KGS 5). *Critique of Practical Reason*, Lewis White Beck, trans. Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1956.
- KU *Kritik der Urteilstkraft* (KGS 5). *Critique of Judgment*, Werner Pluhar, trans.
- LB *Lose Blatter zur Kritik der reinen Vernunft* (KGS 23).
- LBu *Logik Busolt* (KGS 24).
- LD-W *Logik Dohna-Wundlacken* (KGS 24). *The Dohna-Wundlacken Logic, Lectures on Logic*, Michael Young, trans., pp. 438–516.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTE ON SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

XV

LPh	<i>Logik Philippi</i> (KGS 24).
LPö	<i>Logik Pölitz</i> (KGS 24).
MAN	<i>Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Naturwissenschaften</i> (KGS 4). <i>Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science</i> , James Ellington, trans. Indianapolis, New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1970.
MD	<i>Metaphysik Dohna</i> (KGS 28). <i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i> , Karl Ameriks and Steve Naragon, trans. and eds. <i>The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 357–94 (selections).
Mensch	<i>Menschenkunde</i> (KGS 25).
ML ₁	<i>Metaphysik L₁</i> (KGS 28). <i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i> , Karl Ameriks and Steve Naragon, trans., pp. 3–106.
ML ₂	<i>Metaphysik L₂</i> (KGS 28). <i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i> , Karl Ameriks and Steve Naragon, trans., pp. 299–356.
MM	<i>Metaphysik Mrongovius</i> (KGS 29). <i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i> , Karl Ameriks and Steve Naragon, trans., pp. 108–288.
MS	<i>Die Metaphysik der Sitten</i> (KGS 6). <i>The Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Mary Gregor trans. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
MS Vor	<i>Vorarbeiten zu die Metaphysik der Sitten</i> (KGS 23).
Ton	“Von einem neuerdings erhobenen vornehmen Ton in der Philosophie” (KGS 8).
MSV	<i>Metaphysik der Sitten Vigilantius</i> (KGS 27).
Mor M II	<i>Moral Mrongovius II</i> (KGS 29).
MV	<i>Metaphysik Vigilantius (K3)</i> (KGS 29). <i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i> , Karl Ameriks and Steve Naragon, trans., pp. 417–506.
NG	<i>Versuch den Begriff der negativen Grössen in die Weltweisheit einzuführen</i> (KGS 2). <i>Attempt to introduce the concept of negative magnitudes into philosophy, Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770</i> , David Walford and Ralf Meerbote, trans., pp. 203–41.
Pro	<i>Prolegomena zu einer jeden künftigen Metaphysik die als Wissenschaft wird auftreten können</i> (KGS 4). <i>Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics</i> , Lewis White Beck, trans. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1950.
R	<i>Reflexionen</i> (KGS 15–19).
Re	<i>Die Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der blossen Vernunft</i> (KGS 6). <i>Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason</i> , Allen Wood, trans. <i>The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant, Religion and Rational Theology</i> , Allen Wood and George

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79154-0 - Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Henry E. Allison

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

NOTE ON SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Di Giovanni, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996, pp. 57–215.
- TP *Über den Gemeinspruch: Das mag in der Theorie richtig sein, taugt aber nicht für die Praxis* (KGS 8).
- UE *Über eine Entdeckung nach der alle Kritik der reinen Vernunft durch eine ältere entbehrlich gemacht werden soll* (KGS 8).
- WH “Was heisst: Sich im Denken orientiren?” (KGS 8). “What Does it Mean to Orient Oneself in Thinking?” *Religion and Rational Theology*, Allen Wood trans., pp. 7–18.
- WL *Wiener Logik* (KGS 24) *The Vienna Logic, Lectures on Logic*, Michael Young trans., pp. 251–377.