

Richard Wollheim on the Art of Painting

Art as Representation and Expression

Richard Wollheim is one of the dominant figures in the philosophy of art, whose work has shown not only how paintings create their effects but why they remain important to us. His influential writings have focused on two core, interrelated questions: How do paintings depict? How do they express feelings?

In this collection of new essays, a group of distinguished thinkers in the fields of art history and philosophical aesthetics offers a critical assessment of Wollheim's theory of art. Among the themes under discussion are Wollheim's explanation of pictorial representation in terms of seeing-in, his views of artistic expression as a type of complex projection, and his notion of the internal spectator. In the final essay, Wollheim himself responds to the contributors.

Given the high level of international recognition that Wollheim's work has enjoyed for many years, this book will be eagerly sought out by all serious students of the theory of art, whether in departments of philosophy or art history.

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Edited by

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Contents

	List of Contributors	page vii
	Relevant Works by Richard Wollheim and Their	
	Abbreviations as Used in This Volume	ix
	Preface	xi
	Introduction	1
	ROB VAN GERWEN	
	Part One: Representation	
1	On Pictorial Representation	13
	RICHARD WOLLHEIM	
2	Wollheim on Pictorial Representation	28
	JERROLD LEVINSON	
3	The Limits of Twofoldness: A Defence of the Concept	
	of Pictorial Thought	39
	ANDREW HARRISON	
4	A Hypothesis About Seeing-In	59
	MONIQUE ROELOFS	
5	Communication and the Art of Painting	75
	ANTHONY SAVILE	
6	Twofoldness: From Transcendental Imagination to	
	Pictorial Art	85
	PAUL CROWTHER	
	Part Two: Expression	
7	Wollheim on Correspondence, Projective Properties, and	
	Expressive Perception	101
	MALCOLM BUDD	
8	The Artistry of Depiction	112
	MICHAEL PODRO	
9	Style and Value in the Art of Painting	121
	CAROLYN WILDE	



vi	Contents	
10	Expression as Representation ROB VAN GERWEN	135
11	Wollheim on Expression (and Representation) GRAHAM MCFEE	151
	Part Three: The Internal Spectator	
12	Viewing Making Painting SVETLANA ALPERS	171
13	The Staging of Spectatorship RENÉE VAN DE VALL	177
14	Presentation or Representation SUSAN L. FEAGIN	189
15	The Case for the Internal Spectator: Aesthetics or Art History? CAROLINE VAN ECK	200
16	The Spectator in the Picture ROBERT HOPKINS	215
17	A Word on Behalf of "the Merely Visual" MICHAEL BAXANDALL	232
	Part Four: Reply	
18	A Reply to the Contributors RICHARD WOLLHEIM	241
	Bibliography	263
	Index	271



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viii

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Relevant Works by Richard Wollheim and Their Abbreviations as Used in This Volume

AM	1973. On Art and the Mind. London: Allen Lane.
AO1	1968. Art and Its Objects: An Introduction to Aesthetics. New
	York: Harper & Row.
AO2	1980. Art and Its Objects, second edition. Cambridge, U.K.:
	Cambridge University Press.
CR	1980. Criticism as Retrieval. AO2, 185–204.
CPE	1993. Correspondence, Projective Properties, and Expression
	in the Arts. MD, 144-58. [Originally: 1991. Kemal, S., ed. The
	Language of Art History 51-66. New York: Cambridge Univer-
	sity Press.]
MD	1993. The Mind and Its Depths. Cambridge, MA: Harvard
	University Press.
PA	1988. Painting as an Art. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University
	Press.
PS	1993. Pictorial Style: Two Views. MD, 159–70. [Originally:
	1979. Lang, B., ed. The Concept of Style, 129-45. Philadel-
	phia: University of Pennsylvania Press.]
SC	1993. The Sheep and the Ceremony. MD, 1–21. [Originally:
	1979. The Leslie Stephen Lecture, University of Cambridge.
	Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.]
TL	1984. The Thread of Life. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univer-
	sity Press.
W-IPU	1986. Imagination and Pictorial Understanding. <i>Proceedings of</i>
	the Aristotelian Society, Supplement, 60: 45–60.

Where an article has been reprinted in a collection of Wollheim's essays, the page references in the text refer to that collection.



Preface

This book presents the offspring of a three-day conference on Richard Wollheim's aesthetics, which was held (in Wollheim's presence) in May 1997 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, augmented with a symposium from the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* and Wollheim's reply to the essays. The theme of the book – as of the conference – is the troubled conceptual relations in the art of painting between expression and representation. The conference, which took place in the best of spirits, benefited from a lively and ongoing discussion on one singularly coherent and stimulating body of thought, that is, Wollheim's. Almost every chapter originating from the conference has been rewritten where appropriate in response to the discussions at the conference and to other chapters in this volume. This argumentative coherence is further served by Wollheim responses to the chapters. Thus, this volume presents a coherent body of work addressing issues raised by Wollheim but that are of importance far beyond his theory.

I would like to thank the authors for their supportive and stimulating cooperation, and particularly Graham McFee for his assistance in the editorial process. I would also like to express a word of thanks to the institutions that made it all happen: the Department of Philosophy of Utrecht University, the Leiden-Utrecht Zeno institute for research in philosophy, the Royal Dutch Academy of the Sciences (KNAW), the Foundation for Philosophy and Theology (SFT) of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), and the Research Institute for History and Culture (OGC) of the department of Humanities, Utrecht University. Thanks also to Laura Lawrie, Matthew Lord, and Terence Moore of Cambridge University Press for their assistance in producing this book. Last, and emphatically, my thanks are due to Richard Wollheim for his supportive and energetic attitude and his never-diminishing strength of argument.

Rob van Gerwen Utrecht, October 13, 1999



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