

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

edited by

Desmond Hogan

Princeton University

Howard Williams

University of Cardiff

Allen Wood

Indiana University

THE POLITICS OF BEAUTY

A Study Of Kant's Critique Of Taste

Susan Meld Shell

Boston College



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-01180-8 — The Politics Of Beauty
Susan Meld Shell
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009011808
DOI: 10.1017/9781009026840

© Susan Meld Shell 2022

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 2022

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

ISBN 978-1-009-01180-8 Paperback
ISSN 2397-9461 (online)
ISSN 2514-3824 (print)

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.

The Politics Of Beauty

A Study Of Kant's Critique Of Taste

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

DOI: 10.1017/9781009026840
First published online: August 2022

Susan Meld Shell
Boston College

Author for correspondence: Susan Meld Shell, shell@bc.edu

Abstract: This Element examines the entirety of Kant's Critique of Taste (in Part One of the *Critique of Judgment*) with particular emphasis on its political and moral aims. Kant's critical treatment of aesthetic judgment is both an extended theoretical response to influential predecessors and contemporaries, including Rousseau and Herder, and a practical intervention in its own right meant to nudge history forward at a time of civilizational crisis. Attention to these themes helps resolve a number of puzzles, both textual and philosophic, including the normative force and meaning of judgments of taste and the relation between natural and artful beauty.

Keywords: Kant, beauty, aesthetics, politics, culture

© Susan Meld Shell 2022

ISBNs: 9781009011808 (PB), 9781009026840 (OC)
ISSNs: 2397-9461 (online), 2514-3824 (print)

Contents

1	Introduction: Reflection and Revolution	1
2	The Elements of Beauty	6
3	Artistic Beauty	25
4	Rhetoric and the Antinomy of Taste	37
5	The Politics of Beauty	50
6	Summary and Conclusion	68
	References	70