

## THE ORIGINS OF KANT'S AESTHETICS

Organized around eight themes central to aesthetic theory today, this book examines the sources and development of Kant's aesthetics by mining his publications, correspondence, handwritten notes, and university lectures. Each chapter explores one of the following themes: aesthetic judgment and normativity, formal beauty, conceptual beauty, artistic creativity or genius, the fine arts, the sublime, ugliness and disgust, and humor. Robert Clewis considers how Kant's thought was shaped by authors such as Christian Wolff, Alexander Baumgarten, Georg Meier, Moses Mendelssohn, Johann Sulzer, Johann Herder, Francis Hutcheson, David Hume, Edmund Burke, Henry Home, Charles Batteux, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Voltaire. His study uncovers and illuminates the complex development of Kant's aesthetic theory and will be useful to advanced students and scholars in fields across the humanities and studies of the arts.

ROBERT R. CLEWIS is the author of *The Kantian Sublime and the Revelation of Freedom* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and *Kant's Humorous Writings: An Illustrated Guide* (2020) and the editor of *Reading Kant's Lectures* (2015) and *The Sublime Reader* (2019).

THE ORIGINS OF KANT'S  
AESTHETICS

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In memory of Chester McConnell Thompson

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I lost my grandfather Chester McConnell Thompson on January 23, 2021 – one of many taken by Covid-19 – and I dedicate this book to his memory.

## A NOTE ON CITATIONS

References to Kant's writings are from the works by Immanuel Kant published in the Academy Edition (Akademie-Ausgabe [AA]), *Kant's gesammelte Schriften* (1900–), edited by the Royal Prussian, subsequently German, then Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, in 29 volumes, now published by Walter de Gruyter.

Following convention, references to the first *Critique* (*Kritik der reinen Vernunft*) use the standard A/B page numbers, where “A” refers to the first edition of 1781 and “B” to the second edition of 1787. Citations use Arabic numerals to indicate the AA volume, followed by the page. For instance, “V-Anth/Parow 25:380” refers to the Parow anthropology lecture transcription, Academy Edition volume 25, page 380. When a lecture is not published in the Academy Edition, references are to the manuscript page number. Thus, “V-Anth/Reichel ms page 83” refers to page 83 in the unedited manuscript of the anthropology lecture Reichel. Kant's *Reflexionen* (Reflections or handwritten notes) are cited by means of the abbreviation “R” followed by the conventional number of the individual Reflections provided in the Academy Edition volumes. For example, “R 1503; 1780–84; 15:805” refers to Reflection number 1503, written at some time between 1780 and 1784 and found on page 805 of AA volume 15.

Translations of Kant's writings are typically taken from the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant (Cambridge University Press, 1992–), with occasional (silent) modifications. When the Cambridge Edition does not translate a passage, the translation is frequently my own and indicated as such.

## ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations of Kant's works stem from the ones adopted by the journal *Kant-Studien* (published by Walter de Gruyter in Berlin). Since most of the abbreviations refer to writings found in the Academy Edition (AA), the relevant volume (when applicable) is listed after each text.

AA	Akademie-Ausgabe
Anth	Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht (AA 07)
BDG	Der einzig mögliche Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Daseins Gottes (AA 02)
BGSE	Bemerkungen in den Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen (AA 20)
Br	Briefe (AA 10–13)
EEKU	Erste Einleitung in die Kritik der Urteilskraft (AA 20)
GSE	Beobachtung über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen (AA 02)
Kowalewski	edition that includes V-Anth/Dohna (published in Immanuel Kant, <i>Die philosophischen Hauptvorlesungen Immanuel Kants</i> , ed. Arnold Kowalewski [Munich and Leipzig: Rösl, 1924])
KpV	Kritik der praktischen Vernunft (AA 05)
KrV	Kritik der reinen Vernunft (cited according to the A and B editions)
KU	Kritik der Urteilskraft (AA 05)
Log	Jäsche Logik (AA 09)
MS	Die Metaphysik der Sitten (AA 06)
MSI	De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis (Inaugural Dissertation) (AA 02)
NEV	Nachricht von der Einrichtung seiner Vorlesungen in dem Winterhalbenjahre von 1765–1766 (AA 02)
NG	Versuch, den Begriff der negativen Größen in die Weltweisheit einzuführen (AA 02)
Phil Enz	Philosophische Enzyklopädie (AA 29)
R	Reflexion (AA 14–9)

TG	Träume eines Geistersehers, erläutert durch die Träume der Metaphysik (AA 02)
UD	Untersuchung über die Deutlichkeit der Grundsätze der natürlichen Theologie und der Moral (AA 02)
ÜGTP	Über den Gebrauch teleologischer Principien in der Philosophie (AA 08)
V-Anth/Brauer	Anthropologie 1772/73 Brauer, unedited manuscript
V-Anth/Busolt	Anthropologie 1788/89 Busolt (AA 25)
V-Anth/Collins	Anthropologie 1772/73 Collins (AA 25)
V-Anth/Ding	Anthropologie Dingelstaedt, unedited manuscript
V-Anth/Dohna	Anthropologie Dohna-Wundlacken (in the Kowalewski edition)
V-Anth/Fried	Anthropologie 1775/76 Friedländer (AA 25)
V-Anth/Ham	Anthropologie Hamilton 1772/73, unedited manuscript
V-Anth/ Mensch	Anthropologie 1781/82 Menschenkunde (AA 25)
V-Anth/Mron	Anthropologie 1784/85 Mrongovius (AA 25)
V-Anth/Parow	Anthropologie 1772/73 Parow (AA 25)
V-Anth/Phil	Anthropologie 1772/73 Philippi (AA 25)
V-Anth/Pillau	Anthropologie 1777/78 Pillau (AA 25)
V-Anth/Reichel	Anthropologie Reichel, unedited manuscript
V-Lo/Blom	Logik Blomberg (AA 24)
V-Lo/Dohna	Logik Dohna-Wundlacken (AA 24)
V-Lo/Phil	Logik Philippi (AA 24)
V-Lo/Wien	Wiener Logik (AA 24)
V-Met/Herder	Metaphysik Herder (AA 28)
V-Met/L1	Metaphysik L1 (AA 28)
V-Met/Mron	Metaphysik Mrongovius (AA 29)
V-Met/Vig	Metaphysik Vigilantius (AA 29)
V-Mo/Collins	Moralphilosophie Collins (AA 27)
V-PG/Holstein	Physische Geographie Holstein (AA 26.1)
V-PP/Herder	Praktische Philosophie Herder (AA 27)