

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger

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HEIDEGGER ON PRESENCE

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Heidegger On Presence

Elements in the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger

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Abstract: Heidegger calls the thought that “being is presence” the “thunderbolt” that led him to link being and time and inspired his deconstruction of Western metaphysics. However, the scope of the concept of presence varies in his texts; the narrower it is, the more dramatic yet less plausible is his “thunderbolt.” What is presence? Does Heidegger ultimately reject presence as the meaning of being, or does he accept it if conceived broadly enough? This Element surveys the meaning and status of “presence” in Heidegger. It argues that Heidegger maintains a critical perspective, and that his critique can be applied not only to the tradition as interpreted in his “history of being,” but also to contemporary phenomena such as information technology.

Keywords: Martin Heidegger, being, presence, ontology, time

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