

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein  
edited by  
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## WITTGENSTEIN AND AESTHETICS

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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-93112-0 — Wittgenstein and Aesthetics  
Hanne Appelqvist  
Frontmatter  
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108931120](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108931120)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108946452

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First published 2023

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

ISBN 978-1-108-93112-0 Paperback

ISSN 2632-7112 (online)

ISSN 2632-7104 (print)

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## Wittgenstein and Aesthetics

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DOI: 10.1017/9781108946452  
First published online: January 2023

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**Abstract:** This Element argues that aesthetics, broadly conceived, plays a significant role in Wittgenstein's philosophy. In doing so, it draws on the interpretative tradition that emphasizes affinities between Wittgenstein's thought and Kant's philosophy. Following the chronology of Wittgenstein's philosophical work, this Element addresses Wittgenstein's early equation between ethics and aesthetics, his middle-period discussion on the normative character of aesthetic judgments and the possibility of their justification, and his later comparison between language and music. As a whole, it traces a continuous line of thought pertaining to a non-conceptual form of encounter with reality, which is developed in close conjunction with aesthetics and contributes to Wittgenstein's understanding of language and the method of philosophy throughout his career.

**Keywords:** aesthetic judgment, ineffability, Kant, normativity, philosophical method

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ISBNs: 9781108931120 (PB), 9781108946452 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2632-7112 (online), 2632-7104 (print)

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