

Phil 347 – Aesthetics, Michigan State University, Philosophy Department
Dr. Christian Lotz, Exam 2 – Dec 3 – 25 points

Topic: Hegel's Concept of Art, Aesthetics and Beauty

Please answer the following questions.

QUOTE:

“Things in nature are only *immediate* and *single*, while man as spirit *duplicates* himself, in that (i) he is as things in nature are, but (ii) he is just as much *for* himself; he sees himself, represents himself to himself, thinks, and only on the strength of this active placing himself before himself is he spirit. This consciousness of himself man acquires in a twofold way: *first, theoretically*, [...]. *Secondly*, man brings himself before himself by *practical* activity, [...].” (Hegel, *Lectures on Fine Art*, p.31)

→ **QUESTION 1:** Please explain the quote above *in regard to Hegel's concept of art* [2/4]

→ **QUESTION 2:** Please explain the concept of catharsis and Hegel's critique of this concept in aesthetics [2/4]

→ **QUESTION 3:** Why or why not would Hegel support the claim below? Please explain your answer. [2/4]



I found the following statement on an internet-blog:

“When I look at this picture I am drawn into it and I feel the hurt that this mother must be feeling. She has a little girl on her lap who looks sick and helpless. They don't look very wealthy and probably don't have much food. Perhaps it is very cold out and maybe the mother and daughter don't have much heat and are barely making it through the winter with rags as their clothing. I can't help but feel sorry for them and want to help them. I'm in suspense whether or not the little girl is going to be all right. The painter is very skilled, the painting is well done - and I love the colors, which are so stimulating. The painting is an expression of beauty for me because it allows me to have this special empathetic relation to it!”

GOOD LUCK!!

Ranking [3]; grammar/spelling [1]; organization [1]; explanatory force [2]