



THE PHILOSOPHY OF ART

Maymester, 2017

Prof. Thomas Hofweber

PHIL 185: Intro to Aesthetics

This course focuses on philosophical issues about art. We will discuss a series of big questions about art, its purpose, its appreciation, and its limits. Topics and questions to be discussed include: What is art? Does art have a goal or purpose? What makes art worthy of appreciation? How is art properly appreciated or understood? The significance of the author and the historical context. What is the relation between art and beauty? Are there objective standards for art and beauty? Beauty in nature vs. beauty in art. Does it matter whether an artwork is a forgery or copy, and if so why? Is art tied to human biology or an outgrowth of a cultural setting? The aesthetic appreciation of punk rock. Is music distinct from other arts in what it is supposed to do?