Abstract

What is at the origin of aesthetic facts and stances that are typical to our species? Which role do emotions play in it? What is the ratio between aesthetic and cognitive dimension? in order to settle these questions, the author proposes an investigation that, moving from an analysis of emotions and by the issue of our ability to perceive images, defines the function of aesthetic schemes that are active since the early days of our infancy. The book’s core is thus devoted to the crucial theme of aesthetic pleasure, accounted both within the background framework of classic authors such as Aristotle and Kant and in dialogue with recent experimental analysis. On such basis, it is outlined an aesthetic mechanism that is specific to our mind, feeding on primary emotional devices and involving cognitive faculties of higher grade. Within the hypothesis of an aesthetic mechanism the author therefore grasps both the very matrix of human cognition and the prelude to language. Just as stated by the peculiar nature of aesthetic judgment, on whose analysis the volume ends. Through a clear and original path, we can therefore understand how at the origin of human’s symbolic mind there is an aesthetic mind.

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