With an Artistic Vision: Further Inquiries into Perception, the Arts and Eye Disease

Vincent deLuise, MD

Are humans “hard-wired” to perceive beauty? Are there foundational neurological underpinnings to aesthetics? The field of neuroaesthetics is blossoming, and this talk will explore some fascinating sidebars at the intersection of vision, perception and the arts. An overview of visual archetypes in the history of art will be followed by an examination of the optical problems of self-portraiture. The synesthesias relating to music and color will be discussed, and the talk will conclude with an analysis of the artistic oeuvre of Monet, DeGas, van Gogh, El Greco, Goya and O’Keefe, positing the question: Is eye disease an obstacle or an opportunity for artists to manifest their full artistic genius?

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