

of works of art," which explains "why it would be inappropriate...to respond to nature as one would to a work of art, that is, in terms of its formal properties of design" (p. 134).

17 Stokes, op. cit., p. 64.

18 George Santayana, *The Sense of Beauty* [1896], New York, Collier, 1961, p. 99.

19 Cf. Sagoff, op. cit., *passim*. Although he does not discuss formal qualities as such, Sagoff seemingly holds a position similar to that of Santayana and to the one which we have reached here. He attempts "to explain the aesthetic value of natural environments" by considering "only the expressive qualities of these environments and not their beauty, considered formally" (p. 248).



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APPRECIATION AND THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

From Allen Carlson
Aesthetics & Environment
(R. Hedger 2000)
The appreciation of art

With art objects there is a straightforward sense in which we know both what and how to aesthetically appreciate. We know *what* to appreciate in that, first, we can distinguish a work and its parts from that which is not it nor a part of it. And, second, we can distinguish its aesthetically relevant aspects from its aspects without such relevance. We know that we are to appreciate the sound of the piano in the concert hall and not the coughing that interrupts it; we know that we are to appreciate that a painting is graceful, but not that it happens to hang in the Louvre. In a similar vein, we know *how* to appreciate in that we know what "acts of aspection" to perform concerning different works. Paul Ziff says:

...to contemplate a painting is to perform one act of aspection; to scan it is to perform another; to study, observe, survey, inspect, examine, scrutinize, etc., are still other acts of aspection...I survey a Tintoretto, while I scan an H. Bosch. Thus I step back to look at the Tintoretto, up to look at the Bosch. Different actions are involved. Do you drink brandy in the way you drink beer?¹

It is clear that we have such knowledge of what and how to aesthetically appreciate. It is, I believe, also clear what the grounds are for this knowledge. Works of art are our own creations; it is for this reason that we know what is and what is not a part of a work, which of its aspects are of aesthetic significance, and how to appreciate them. We have made them for the purpose of aesthetic appreciation; in order for them to fulfil this purpose this knowledge must be accessible. In making an object we know what we make and thus its parts and its purpose. Hence in knowing what we make we know what to do with that which we make. In the more general cases the point is clear enough: in creating a painting, we know that what we make is a painting. In knowing this we know that it ends at its frame, that its colors are aesthetically important, but where it hangs is not, and that we are to look at it rather than, say, listen to it.

All this is involved in what it is to be a painting. Moreover, this point holds for more particular cases as well. Works of different particular types have different kinds of boundaries, have different foci of aesthetic significance, and perhaps most important demand different acts of aspection. In knowing the type we know what and how to appreciate. Ziff again:

Generally speaking, a different act of aspection is performed in connection with works belonging to different schools of art, which is why the classification of style is of the essence. Venetian paintings lend themselves to an act of aspection involving attention to balanced masses: contours are of no importance, for they are scarcely to be found. The Florentine school demands attention to contours, the linear style predominates. Look for light in a Claude, for color in a Bonnard, for contoured volume in a Signorelli.²

I take the above to be essentially beyond serious dispute, except as to the details of the complete account. If it were not the case, our complementary institutions of art and of the aesthetic appreciation of art would not be as they are. We would not have the artworld that we do. But the subject of this chapter is not art nor the artworld. Rather it is the aesthetic appreciation of nature. The question I wish to investigate is the question of what and how to aesthetically appreciate concerning the natural environment. It is of interest since the account that is implicit in the above remarks, and that I believe to be the correct account for art, cannot be applied to the natural environment without at least some modification. Thus initially the questions of what and how to appreciate concerning nature appear to be open questions.

Some artistic models for the appreciation of nature

In this section I consider the two artistic paradigms that were introduced in Chapter 1: the object model and the landscape model. These paradigms seem *prima facie* applicable as models for the appreciation of the natural environment. In considering them I follow tradition in that these paradigms are ones that have been offered as or assumed to be appropriate models for the appreciation of nature. However, as suggested in Chapter 1, these models are not as promising as they initially appear to be.

The first artistic paradigm is the object model. In the artworld non-representational sculpture best fits this model of appreciation. When we appreciate such sculpture we appreciate it as the actual physical object that it is. The qualities to be aesthetically appreciated are the sensuous and design qualities of the actual object and perhaps certain abstract expressive qualities. The sculpture need not represent anything external to itself; it need not lead the appreciator beyond itself; it may be a self-contained aesthetic unit. Consider a Brancusi sculpture – for example, the famous *Bird In Space* (1919). It has no

representational connections with the rest of reality and no relational connections with its immediate surroundings and yet it has significant aesthetic qualities. It glistens, has balance and grace, and expresses flight itself.

Clearly it is possible to aesthetically appreciate an object of nature in the way indicated by this model. For example, we may appreciate a rock or a piece of driftwood in the same way as we appreciate a Brancusi sculpture: we actually or contemplatively remove the object from its surroundings and dwell on its sensuous and design qualities and its possible expressive qualities. Moreover, there are considerations that support the plausibility of this model for appreciation of the natural environment. First, natural objects are in fact often appreciated in precisely this way: mantel pieces are littered with pieces of rock and driftwood. Second, the model fits well with one feature of natural objects: such objects, like the Brancusi sculpture, do not have representational ties to the rest of reality. Third and most important, the model involves an accepted, traditional aesthetic approach. As Francis Sparshott notes: “When one talks of the aesthetic this or that, one is usually thinking of it as entering into a subject/object relation.”³

In spite of these considerations, however, I think there are aspects of the object model that make it inappropriate for nature. Santayana, in discussing the aesthetic appreciation of nature (which he calls the love of nature) notes that certain problems arise because the natural landscape has “indeterminate form.” He then observes that although the landscape contains many objects which have determinate forms, “if the attention is directed specifically to them, we have no longer what, by a curious limitation of the word, is called the love of nature.”⁴ I think this limitation is not as curious as Santayana seems to think it is. The limitation marks the distinction between appreciating nature and appreciating the objects of nature. The importance of this distinction is seen by realizing the difficulty of appreciating nature by means of the object model. For example, on one understanding of the object model, the objects of nature when so appreciated become “ready madés” or “found art.” The artworld grants “artistic enfranchisement” to a piece of driftwood just as it has to Duchamp’s urinal, *Fountain* (1917), or to the real Brillo cartons discussed by Arthur Danto.⁵ If this magic is successful the result is art. Questions of what and how to aesthetically appreciate are answered, of course, but concerning art rather than nature; the appreciation of nature is lost in the shuffle. Appreciating sculpture which was once driftwood is no closer to appreciating nature than is appreciating a totem pole that was once a tree or a purse that was once a sow’s ear. In all such cases the conversion from nature to art (or artifact) is complete; only the means of conversion are different.

There is, however, another understanding of how the object model applies to the objects of nature. On this understanding natural objects are simply (actually or contemplatively) removed from their surroundings, but they do not become art, they remain natural objects. Here we do not appreciate the objects qua art objects, but rather qua natural objects. We do not consider the

rock on our mantel a readymade sculpture, we consider it only an aesthetically pleasing rock. In such a case, as the example of non-representational sculpture suggests, our appreciation is limited to the sensuous and design qualities of the natural object and perhaps a few abstract expressive qualities: our rock has a wonderfully smooth and gracefully curved surface and expresses solidity.

The above suggests that, even when it does not require natural objects to be seen as art objects, the object model imposes a certain limitation on our appreciation of natural objects. The limitation is the result of the removal of the object from its surroundings that the object model requires in order even to begin to provide answers to questions of what and how to appreciate. But in requiring such a removal the object model becomes problematic. The object model is most appropriate for those art objects which are self-contained aesthetic units. These objects are such that neither the environment of their creation nor the environment of their display are aesthetically relevant: the removal of a self-contained art object from its environment of creation will not vary its aesthetic qualities and the environment of display of such an object should not affect its aesthetic qualities. However, natural objects possess what we might call an organic unity with their environments of creation: such objects are a part of and have developed out of the elements of their environments by means of the forces at work within those environments. Thus the environments of creation are aesthetically relevant to natural objects. And for this reason the environments of display are equally relevant in virtue of the fact that these environments will be either the same as or different from the environments of creation. In either case the aesthetic qualities of natural objects will be affected. Consider again our rock on the mantel it may seem wonderfully smooth and gracefully curved and expressive of solidity, but in its environment of creation it will have more and different aesthetic qualities – qualities that are the product of the relationship between it and its environment. It is here expressive of the particular forces that shaped and continue to shape it and displays for aesthetic appreciation its place in and its relation to its environment. Moreover, depending upon its place in that environment it may not express many of those qualities, for example, solidity – that it appears to express when on the mantle.

I conclude that the object model, even without changing nature into art, faces a problem as a paradigm for the aesthetic appreciation of nature. The problem is a dilemma: either we remove the object from its environment or we leave it where it is. If the object is removed, the model applies to the object and suggests answers to the questions of what and how to appreciate. But the result is the appreciation of a comparatively limited set of aesthetic qualities. On the other hand, if the object is not removed, the model seemingly does not constitute an adequate model for a very large part of the appreciation that is possible. Thus it makes little headway with the what and how questions. In either case the object model does not provide a successful paradigm for the aesthetic appreciation of nature. It appears after all not a very “curious

limitation” that when our attention is directed specifically toward the objects in the environment it is not called the love of nature.

The second artistic paradigm for the aesthetic appreciation of nature is that which I call in Chapter 1 the landscape model. In the artworld this model of appreciation is illustrated by landscape painting; in fact the model probably owes its existence to this art form. In one of its favored senses “landscape” indicates a prospect – usually a grand prospect – seen from a specific standpoint and distance; a landscape painting is frequently a representation of such a prospect.⁶ When aesthetically appreciating landscape paintings (or any representative paintings, for that matter) the emphasis is not on the actual object (the painting) nor on the object represented (the actual prospect); rather it is on the representation of the object and its represented features. Thus in landscape painting the appreciative emphasis is on those qualities which play an essential role in representing a prospect: visual qualities related to coloration and overall design. These are the qualities that are traditionally significant in landscape painting and that are the focus of the landscape model of appreciation. We thus have a model of appreciation that encourages perceiving and appreciating nature as if it were a landscape painting, as a grand prospect seen from a specific standpoint and distance. It is a model that centers attention on those aesthetic qualities of color and design that are seen and best seen at a distance.

As noted in Chapter 3 in connection with formalism, the landscape model as embodied in the scenery cult has been historically significant in our aesthetic appreciation of nature.⁷ The landscape model is the direct descendant of the scenery cult’s key concept: the picturesque. This term literally means ‘picture-like’ and indicates a mode of appreciation by which the natural world is divided into scenes, each aiming at an ideal dictated by art, especially landscape painting. The concept guided the aesthetic appreciation of eighteenth-century tourists as they pursued picturesque scenery with the help of the “Claude-glass.” Named after landscape artist Claude Lorrain, this small, tinted, convex mirror helped tourists see the landscape as they would art. Thomas West’s popular guidebook to the Lake District (first published in 1778) says of the glass:

...where the objects are great and near, it removes them to a due distance, and shews them in the soft colors of nature, and most regular perspective the eye can perceive, art teach, or science demonstrate... to the glass is reserved the finished picture, in highest coloring, and just perspectives.⁸

And as also noted in Chapter 3, the influence of the scenery cult continues into the present as modern tourists similarly reveal their preferences for the landscape model of appreciation by frequenting “scenic viewpoints” where the actual space between tourists and the prescribed “view” often constitutes

"a due distance" which aids the impression of "soft colors of nature, and the most regular perspective the eye can perceive, art teach, or science demonstrate." And the "regularity" of the perspective is often enhanced by the positioning of the viewpoint itself. Moreover, modern tourists also desire "the finished picture, in highest coloring, and just perspective"; whether this be the "scene" framed and balanced in the camera's viewfinder, the result of this in the form of a Kodacolor print, or the "artistically" composed postcard and calendar reproductions of the "scene" that often attract more appreciation than that which they "reproduce." Geographer R. Rees has described the situation as follows:

...the taste has been for a view, for scenery, not for landscape in the original Dutch – and present geographical – meaning of term, which denotes our ordinary, everyday surroundings. The average modern sightseer, unlike many of the Romantic poets and painters who were accomplished naturalists, is interested not in natural forms and processes, but in a prospect.⁹

It is clear that in addition to being historically important, the landscape model, like the object model, gives us at least initial guidelines as to what and how to appreciate in nature. We are to appreciate the natural environment as if it were a landscape painting. The model requires dividing the environment into scenes or blocks of scenery, each of which is to be viewed from a particular point by a viewer separated by the appropriate spatial (and emotional?) distance. A drive through the country is not unlike a walk through a gallery of landscape paintings. When seen in this light, this model of appreciation causes a certain uneasiness in a number of thinkers. Some, such as ecologist Paul Shepard, seemingly believe this kind of appreciation of the natural environment so misguided that they entertain doubts about the wisdom of any aesthetic approach to nature.¹⁰ Others find the model to be ethically suspect. For example, after pointing out that the modern sightseer is interested only in a prospect, Rees concludes:

In this respect the Romantic Movement was a mixed blessing. In certain phases of its development it stimulated the movement for the protection of nature, but in its picturesque phase it simply confirmed our anthropocentrism by suggesting that nature exists to please as well as to serve us. Our ethics, if the word can be used to describe our attitudes and behavior toward the environment, have lagged behind our aesthetics. It is an unfortunate lapse which allows us to abuse our local environments and venerate the Alps and the Rockies.¹¹

What has not been as generally noted, however, is the point emphasized in the previous chapter. This is that this model of appreciation is suspect not only on

ethical grounds, but also on aesthetic grounds. The model requires us to view the environment as if it were a static representation that is essentially "two dimensional." It requires the reduction of the environment to a scene or view. But what must be kept in mind is that the environment is not a scene, not a representation, not static, and not two dimensional. The point is that the model requires the appreciation of the environment not as what it is and with the qualities it has, but rather as something that it is not and with qualities it does not have. The model is in fact inappropriate to the actual nature of the object of appreciation. Consequently it not only, as with the object model, unduly limits our appreciation – in this case to visual qualities related to color and overall design – it also misleads it. Ronald Hepburn puts this point in a general way:

Supposing that a person's aesthetic education...instills in him the attitudes, the tactics of approach, the expectations proper to the appreciation of art works only, such a person will either pay very little aesthetic heed to natural objects or else heed them in the wrong way. He will look – and of course look in vain – for what can be found and enjoyed only in art.¹²

An environmental model for the appreciation of nature

I conclude that the landscape model, like the object model, is inadequate as a paradigm for the aesthetic appreciation of nature. However, the reason for its inadequacy is instructive. The landscape model is inadequate because it is inappropriate to the nature of the natural environment. Perhaps to see what and how to appreciate in the natural environment, we must consider the nature of that environment more carefully. In this regard there are two rather obvious points that I wish to emphasize. The first is that the natural environment is an environment; the second is that it is natural.

When we conceptualize the natural environment as "nature" I think we are tempted to think of it as an object. When we conceptualize it as "landscape" we are certainly led to thinking of it as scenery. Consequently perhaps the concept of the "natural environment" is somewhat preferable. At least it makes explicit that it is an environment that is under consideration. The object model and the landscape model each in its own way fail to take account of this. But what is involved in taking this into account? Here I initially follow up some remarks made by Sparshott. He suggests that to consider something environmentally is primarily to consider it in regard to the relation of "self to setting," rather than "subject to object" or "traveler to scene."¹³ An environment is the setting in which we exist as a "sentient part"; it is our surroundings. Sparshott points out that as our surroundings, our setting, the environment is that which we take for granted, that which we hardly notice – it is necessarily unobtrusive. If any one part of it becomes obtrusive, it is in danger of being

seen as an object or a scene, not as our environment. As Sparshott says: "When a man starts talking about 'environmental values' we usually take him to be talking about aesthetic values of a background sort."¹⁴

The aesthetic values of the environment being primarily background values has obvious ramifications for the questions of what and how to appreciate. Concerning the question of what to appreciate this suggests the answer "everything," for in an essentially unobtrusive setting there seems little basis for including and excluding. I return to this point shortly. Concerning the question of how to appreciate, the answer suggested is in terms of all those ways in which we normally are aware of and experience our surroundings. Sparshott notes that "if environmental aspects are background aspects, eye and ear lose part of their privilege" and goes on to mention smell, touch, and taste, and even warmth and coolness, barometric pressure and humidity as possibly relevant.¹⁵ This points in the right direction, but, as Sparshott also notes, it seems to involve a difficulty – that "the concept of the aesthetic tugs in a different direction" – the direction of the subject/object relation involving primarily the visual scrutiny of an aesthetic object.¹⁶ However, I do not think this difficulty need be as serious as Sparshott seems to think. I suspect the apparent tension here is not due to the concept of the aesthetic being necessarily tied to the subject/object relation or to the visual, but rather is due to its being antithetical to the appreciation of anything only as unobtrusive background. To confirm this we need to consider the concept of the aesthetic as it is elaborated by John Dewey in *Art as Experience*.¹⁷ Dewey's concept is such that anything that is aesthetically appreciated must be obtrusive; it must be foreground, but it need not be an object and it need not be seen (or only seen). Moreover, to assume that that which is aesthetically appreciated need be an object or only seen is to confine aesthetic appreciation to either the object model or the landscape model, which, as we have noted, impose unacceptable limitations on the aesthetic appreciation of the natural environment.

I suggest then that the beginning of an answer to the question of how to aesthetically appreciate an environment is something like the following. We must experience our background setting in all those ways in which we normally experience it, by sight, smell, touch, and whatever. However, we must experience it not as unobtrusive background, but as obtrusive foreground. What is involved in such an "act of aspection" is not completely clear. Dewey gives us an idea in remarks such as:

To grasp the sources of esthetic experience it is...necessary to have recourse to animal life below the human scale...The live animal is fully present, all there, in all of its actions: in its wary glances, its sharp sniffing, its abrupt cocking of ears. All senses are equally on the *qui vive*.¹⁸

And perhaps the following description by Yi-Fu Tuan gives some further indication:

An adult must learn to be yielding and careless like a child if he were to enjoy nature polymorphously. He needs to slip into old clothes so that he could feel free to stretch out on the hay beside the brook and bathe in a meld of physical sensations: the smell of the hay and of horse dung; the warmth of the ground, its hard and soft contours; the warmth of the sun tempered by breeze; the tickling of an ant making its way up the calf of his leg; the play of shifting leaf shadows on his face; the sound of water over the pebbles and boulders, the sound of cicadas and distant traffic. Such an environment might break all the formal rules of euphony and aesthetics, substituting confusion for order, and yet be wholly satisfying.¹⁹

Tuan's account as to how to appreciate fits well with our earlier answer to the question of what to appreciate, namely everything. This answer, of course, will not do. We cannot appreciate everything; there must be limits and emphases in our aesthetic appreciation of nature as there are in our appreciation of art. Without such limits and emphases our experience of the natural environment would be only "a meld of physical sensations" without any meaning or significance. It would be a Jamesian "blooming, buzzing confusion" that truly substituted "confusion for order" and, I suspect contra to Tuan, would not be wholly satisfying.²⁰ Such experience would be too far removed from our aesthetic appreciation of art to merit the label "aesthetic" or even the label "appreciation." Consider again the case of art. In this case, as noted in the first section of this chapter, the boundaries and foci of aesthetic significance of works of art are a function of the type of art in question, e.g., paintings end at their frames and their colors are significant. Moreover, I suggested that our knowledge of such matters is due to art works being our creations. Here it is relevant to note the second point that I wish to emphasize about natural environments: they are natural. The natural environment is not a work of art. As such it has no boundaries or foci of aesthetic significance that are given as a result of our creation nor of which we have knowledge because of our involvement in such creation.

The fact that nature is natural – not our creation – does not mean, however, that we must be without knowledge of it. Natural objects are such that we can discover things about them that are independent of any involvement by us in their creation. Thus, although we have not created nature, we yet know a great deal about it. This knowledge, essentially common-sense/scientific knowledge, seems to me the only viable candidate for playing the role concerning the appreciation of nature that our knowledge of types of art, artistic traditions, and the like plays concerning the appreciation of art. Consider the aesthetic appreciation of an environment such as that described by Tuan. We experience the environment as obtrusive foreground – the smell of the hay and of the horse dung, the feel of the ant, the sound of the cicadas and of the distant traffic all force themselves upon us. We experience a "meld of sensations"

but, as noted, if our state is to be aesthetic appreciation rather than just the having of raw experience, the meld cannot be simply a "blooming, buzzing confusion." Rather it must be what Dewey called a consummatory experience: one in which knowledge and intelligence transform raw experience by making it determinate, harmonious, and meaningful. For example, in order for there to be aesthetic appreciation we must recognize the smell of the hay and that of the horse dung and perhaps distinguish between them; we must feel the ant at least as an insect rather than as, say, a twitch. Such recognizing and distinguishing results in certain aspects of the obtrusive foreground becoming foci of aesthetic significance. Moreover, they are natural foci appropriate to the particular natural environment we are appreciating. Likewise our knowledge of the environment may yield certain appropriate boundaries or limits to the experience. For example, since we are aesthetically appreciating a certain kind of environment, the sound of cicadas may be appreciated as a proper part of the setting, while the sound of the distant traffic is excluded much as we ignore the coughing in the concert hall.

What I am suggesting is that the question of what to aesthetically appreciate in the natural environment is to be answered in a way analogous to the similar question about art. The difference is that in the case of the natural environment the relevant knowledge is the common-sense/scientific knowledge that we have discovered about the environment in question. This knowledge gives us the appropriate foci of aesthetic significance and the appropriate boundaries of the setting so that our experience becomes one of aesthetic appreciation. If to aesthetically appreciate art we must have knowledge of artistic traditions and styles within those traditions, to aesthetically appreciate nature we must have knowledge of the different environments of nature and of the systems and elements within those environments. In the way in which the art critic and the art historian are well equipped to aesthetically appreciate art, the naturalist and the ecologist are well equipped to aesthetically appreciate nature.²¹

This point about what to appreciate in nature also has ramifications for how to appreciate nature. In discussing the nature of an environment, I suggest that Tuan's description seems to indicate a general act of aspection appropriate for any environment. However, since natural environments differ in type it seems that within this general act of aspection there might be differences which should be noted. To aesthetically appreciate an environment we experience our surroundings as obtrusive foreground, allowing our knowledge of that environment to select certain foci of aesthetic significance and perhaps exclude others, thereby limiting the experience. But certainly there are also different kinds of appropriate acts of aspection which can likewise be selected by our knowledge of environments. Ziff tells us to look for contours in the Florentine school and for color in a Bonnard, to survey a Tintoretto and to scan a Bosch. Consider different natural environments. It seems that we must survey a prairie environment, looking at the subtle contours of the land, feeling the wind blowing across the open space, and smelling the mix of prairie grasses and flowers.

But such an act of aspection has little place in a dense forest environment. Here we must examine and scrutinize, inspecting the detail of the forest floor, listening carefully for the sounds of birds, and smelling carefully for the scent of spruce and pine. Likewise, the description of environmental appreciation given by Tuan, in addition to being a model for environmental acts of aspection in general, is also a description of the act of aspection appropriate for a particular kind of environment – one perhaps best described as pastoral. Different natural environments require different acts of aspection; and as in the case of what to appreciate, our knowledge of the environment in question indicates how to appreciate – that is, indicates the appropriate act of aspection.

The model I thus suggest for the aesthetic appreciation of nature is that which is introduced in Chapter 1 as the natural environmental model. It involves recognizing that nature is an environment and thus a setting within which we exist and that we normally experience with our complete range of senses as our unobtrusive background. But in order for our experience to be aesthetic requires unobtrusive background to be experienced as obtrusive foreground. The result is the experience of a "blooming, buzzing confusion" that in order to be appreciated must be tempered by the knowledge we have discovered about the natural environment so experienced. Our knowledge of the nature of the particular environments yields the appropriate boundaries of appreciation, the particular foci of aesthetic significance, and the relevant act or acts of aspection for that type of environment. We thus have a model that begins to give answers to the questions of what and how to appreciate in the natural environment and that seems to do so with due regard for the nature of that environment. And this is important not only for aesthetic but also for moral and ecological reasons.

Conclusion

In this chapter, in addressing the question of what and how to aesthetically appreciate concerning nature, I contend that two traditional approaches, each of which more or less assimilates the appreciation of nature to the appreciation of certain art forms, leave much to be desired. However, the approach I suggest, the natural environmental model, yet follows closely the general structure of our aesthetic appreciation of art. This approach does not depend on an assimilation of natural objects to art objects nor of landscapes to scenery, but rather on an application of the general structure of aesthetic appreciation of art to something that is not art. What is important is to recognize that nature is an environment and is natural, and to make that recognition central to our aesthetic appreciation. Thereby we will aesthetically appreciate nature for what it is and for the qualities it has. And we will avoid being the person described by Hepburn who "will either pay very little aesthetic heed to natural objects or else heed them in the wrong way," who "will look – and of course look in vain – for what can be found and enjoyed only in art."²²

Notes

- 1 Paul Ziff, "Reasons in Art Criticism," *Philosophical Turnings, Essays in Conceptual Appreciation*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1966, p. 71.
- 2 Ibid. Ziff is mainly concerned with the way in which knowledge of types yields different acts of aspection. For an elaboration of this point and its ramifications concerning what is and is not aesthetically significant in a work, see K. Walton, "Categories of Art," *Philosophical Review*, 1970, vol. 79, pp. 334–67. How our knowledge of art and the artworld yields the boundaries between art and the rest of reality is interestingly discussed in A. Danto, "The Artistic Enfranchisement of Real Objects, the Artworld," *Journal of Philosophy*, 1964, vol. 61, pp. 571–84.
- 3 F. E. Sparshott, "Figuring the Ground: Notes on Some Theoretical Problems of the Aesthetic Environment," *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 1972, vol. 6, p. 13.
- 4 George Santayana, *The Sense of Beauty* [1896], New York, Collier, 1961, p. 100.
- 5 Danto, op. cit., p. 579. On issues about turning objects into art, see the institutional theory of art; the classic account is G. Dickie, *Art and the Aesthetic, An Institutional Analysis*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1974.
- 6 This favored sense of "landscape" is brought out by Yi-Fu Tuan. See *Topophilia, A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values*, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall, 1974, pp. 132–3, or "Man and Nature, An Eclectic Reading," *Landscape*, 1966, vol. 15, p. 30.
- 7 For a good brief discussion of this point, see R. Rees, "The Scenery Cult: Changing Landscape Tastes over Three Centuries," *Landscape*, 1975, vol. 19. Note the following remarks by E. H. Gombrich in "The Renaissance Theory of Art and the Rise of Landscape," *Norm and Form: Studies in the Art of the Renaissance*, London, Phaidon, 1971, pp. 117–18:

I believe that the idea of natural beauty as an inspiration of art...is, to say the least, a very dangerous oversimplification. Perhaps it even reverses the actual process by which man discovers the beauty of nature. We call a scenery "picturesque"...if it reminds us of paintings we have seen...Similarly, so it seems, the discovery of Alpine scenery does not precede but follows the spread of prints and paintings with mountain panoramas.

- 8 Thomas West, *Guide to the Lakes* [1778], quoted in J. T. Ogden, "From Spatial to Aesthetic Distance in the Eighteenth Century," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 1974, vol. 35, pp. 66–7.
- 9 R. Rees, "The Taste for Mountain Scenery," *History Today*, 1975, vol. 25, p. 312.
- 10 Paul Shepard, *The Tender Carnivore and the Sacred Game*, New York, Scribner, 1973, pp. 147–8. Shepard made this position more explicit at a lecture at Athabasca University, Edmonton, Alberta, November 16, 1974.
- 11 Rees, "Mountain Scenery," op. cit., p. 312. Ethical worries are also expressed by Tuan, *Topophilia*, op. cit., Chapter 8, and R. A. Smith and C. M. Smith, "Aesthetics and Environmental Education," *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 1970, vol. 4, pp. 131–2. Smith and Smith put the point as follows:

Perhaps there is a special form of arrogance in experiencing nature strictly in the categories of art, for the attitude involved here implies an acceptance, though perhaps only momentarily, of the notion that natural elements have been arranged for the sake of the man's aesthetic pleasure. It is possible that this is what Kant had in mind when he said that in the appreciation of natural beauty one ought not assume that nature has fashioned its forms for our delight and that, instead, "it is we who receive nature with favor, and not nature that does us a favor."

- 12 R. W. Hepburn, "Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature," in H. Osborne (ed.) *Aesthetics and the Modern World*, London, Thames and Hudson, 1968, p. 53. Hepburn argues that our aesthetic appreciation of nature is enhanced by our "realizing" that an object is what it is and has the qualities it has. See pp. 60–5.
- 13 Sparshott, op. cit., pp. 12–13. Sparshott also considers other possible relations not directly relevant here. Moreover, I suspect he considers the "traveller to scene" relation to be more significant than I do.
- 14 Ibid., pp. 17–18.
- 15 Ibid., p. 21.
- 16 Ibid., pp. 13–14, p. 21.
- 17 John Dewey, *Art as Experience* [1934], New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1958, especially Chapter 3, "Having an Experience," pp. 35–57.
- 18 Ibid., pp. 18–19.
- 19 Tuan, *Topophilia*, op. cit., p. 96.
- 20 William James, *The Principles of Psychology* [1890], Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1983, p. 462.
- 21 I have in mind here individuals such as John Muir and Aldo Leopold. See, for example, Muir's *Our National Parks*, New York, Houghton Mifflin, 1916, or Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1949.
- 22 Hepburn, op. cit., p. 53.