

Metaphor in Art Criticism

I. Metaphor and Artistic Expression.

A. We often appear to use metaphor to convey what is expressed by a work of art: 'The music is joyous', 'The painting is tense', 'The colonnade is serene.'

B. Christopher Peacocke.

1. We can perceive one thing metaphorically-as another.
2. To hear music as expressive (of sadness, exuberance, etc.) is to hear some feature of it metaphorically-as sad, exuberant, etc.

II. Metaphorical Aesthetic Descriptions.

A. Frank Sibley on aesthetic descriptions.

B. Roger Scruton on metaphorical aesthetic descriptions.

1. Metaphorical aesthetic terms in general.
 - a. Aesthetic terms do not attribute aesthetic properties to objects.
 - b. Aesthetic experience is an exercise of imagination.
2. Metaphors of movement and space in descriptions of music.
 - a. We must hear sounds as moving and as in space in order to hear sounds as music.
 - b. There is a complex system of metaphor in our most basic perceptions of music.
 - c. We cannot eliminate spatial and movement metaphors from our descriptions of music.
3. Malcolm Budd's objections.

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