

ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH

Ralph B. Perry's general theory of value was the most extensive and influential axiological project undertaken in the USA prior to WWII. While Perry's main goal is to provide a general definition of value and to describe the means of its criticism, the project also deals with the nature of special values, including aesthetic value. This dissertation thesis traces the aesthetic vein in Perry's theory, which is concentrated on the terms of aesthetic interest and its passive correlate, the aesthetic object. These are also the centerpieces of the definition of aesthetic value. First, interest and its object are defined in their general sense; next, they are defined in their specific aesthetic sense. Perry defines aesthetic interest as the interest in apprehension, and the object of this interest as a problematic intentional object with an index-predicate structure: its index is the localizable source of stimulus, and its predicate, the reflected act of apprehension. The final chapter is devoted to the forms of interplay between aesthetic interest and other interests, and the criticism of aesthetic interest from the aesthetic and moral standpoint. In Perry's theory, the aesthetic value belongs among the trinity of universal values. It is considered autonomous as long as the aesthetic interest is isolated from others or dominates them. However, since life is characterized by a plurality of interests, in the moment of their conflict, aesthetic interest, as much as any other, must give way to the moral claim on their harmonic organization.

KEYWORDS:

aesthetic object, aesthetic value, axiology, interest, morality, Ralph B. Perry, realism, valuation, value theory