

## **Abstract**

John Dewey's philosophical work was establishing a continuum between human behavior and nature. Dewey advanced the theory that everything we experience comes through interaction with our surroundings – and articulating our experience by this interaction. Dewey uses *experience* even in the framework of art – and he stresses the importance of combining art and esthetic experience into our everyday life. The first part of my paper is meant to explain Dewey's philosophical concepts, his view on the issues relating to the common world, his analysis of normal/everyday experience, and his analysis of what he termed *esthetic experience*. *Part two is a comparison between Dewey's philosophy of esthetic experience and Jerome Stolnitz's, another known aesthetic philosopher, and their theories on esthetics. The basic question I seek to answer is whether, despite their differences in theories, Stolnitz was coming from a different theoretical background with different traditions and assumptions, one can still trace certain consensus and mutually shared territory in which their theories merge. And so, I attempt to answer the question, can we find characteristics of esthetic experience that would be plausible to both of them? Or is it rather that their understanding of esthetic experience was so different, that we cannot find any perspective in which they could relate to each other?*

## **Keywords**

Aesthetic Experience

American Aesthetics, early to mid 20th Century

John Dewey

Jerome Stolnitz