

## ***Preface***

Art, Emotion and Value collects some of the papers presented at the 5th Mediterranean Congress of Aesthetics, which took place in Cartagena (Spain) from the 4th to the 8th of July 2011.

The global theme, which gave the Conference its name, addresses a large and long discussed subject matter within aesthetics. The main problems that have received intense discussion, both at a theoretical and a practical level, include art criticism and contemporary culture analysis. In particular, the papers collected lead to different areas of debate according to which they have been organized. The range of the topics included in this volume covers diverse questions about artistic value, in relation to moral and political value and to the expression of emotion and the affective aspects of aesthetic experience, approaching them, in the first place, at certain moments of the history of aesthetic thought but also dealing with these questions from a more general perspective. The ways in which these issues take shape, on the one hand, in particular artistic forms and, on the other hand, in reflections about contemporary art, have also been taken into account. Finally, the Congress showed too the increasing interest in environmental aesthetics which consequently deserves a place in this collection.

The papers were given in the three official languages of the Congress (English, French, and Spanish) in which they are also published. We would like to thank very much the members of the Scientific Committee for their generous work blindly reviewing the abstracts submitted. Based on their evaluation, a hundred papers were selected by the members of the Organizing Committee, from which eighty-nine papers were finally presented at the Conference, and so were eligible for publication. We are grateful to Francisca Pérez Carreño, our colleague in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Murcia, for her help organizing this Conference and editing this collection. We thank our University for the support given to this project and also the Technical University of Cartagena, which allowed the Congress to be held on its campus, in the particularly unique old Navy Training Barracks that currently lodges the Faculty of Business Studies. A special mention should be given to Antonio Garrido Hernández, who helped us greatly during the whole process of the organization of the Conference.

But the success of the 5th Mediterranean Congress of Aesthetics was first of all due to the talent of the participants who made it possible and who enlivened it during those five intensive days. We would like to thank them all again. Nevertheless, our final acknowledgment goes to the authors, whose contributions create this volume, including the keynote speakers of the Conference, Dominique Chateau, Anna Christina Ribeiro, Rachida Triki and Gerard Vilar.

The topic for the Conference is intimately linked to the research projects on "Emotion and moral value in art" (Ref. FFI2008-00750/FISO; FFI2010-08842-E) and "Emotion and moral value in art: artistic theory and praxis" (Ref. 08694/PHCS/08) in which our work was framed at that time. We thank the Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation (MICINN) and Fundación Séneca-Agencia de Ciencia y Tecnología de la Región de Murcia for their generous support.

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