

Within the contemporary, post-modern world fundamentally fraught—alas, yet again, anew—with various locally and planetarily emerging, urgent re-action requiring—war and health, ecological and economic (as well as other, less pronounced and less prominent, albeit maybe likewise pre-valent)—crises, there perhaps persist solely fragile and fragmented, scarcely noteworthy remnants of the beautiful. One might be (even) tempted, with regard to what is globally at work and societally at stake nowadays, to declare contemplations concerning beauty as being obtusely obsolete and thus dismiss the possibility of such questioning altogether. However, should we, despite the adverse odds, maintain the pertinence of the problem, the critical potential it nonetheless, as all the humanities, as all the human(e), integrally entails, we may ask ourselves, ask of our()selves, how does beauty reveal itself today? Does it at all?

Has the beautiful, within whatever phenomenal form it notwithstanding appears and gives itself to comprehension, been banished to the self-extinguishing existence of a nostalgic longing for the (idealized?) past? Is it, also in its most actual, con-current configuration, only a forgotten artefact of crafty artistry in the (imaginary) museum, where through we seek solace and escape from the horrific harshness of the (so-called) real? Do we today encounter it merely in the meagre dis-guise of (virtual) artificiality, of—non-essentially—kitsch (and, therefore, encounter it no more)? Or: can the beautiful be considered and conveyed as the (imaginary) opening of the space and of the time of what is to come, become disclosed as the (idealized?) future? Does it (not) necessarily possess—is it (not) itself dis-possessed by—the anticipative characteristic of the utopian that, in order to truly and truthfully be, calls for(th) a transposition—a sort of “translation”—through, towards (individual and communal) dwelling, its “realization”: a response, a responsibility? Between yesterday and tomorrow, what reveals—still?—(the imagination of) beauty?

The International Symposium in Hermeneutic Philosophy, organized by Barrett, The Honors College (Arizona State University), Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities, Forum for the Humanities, and KUD Sestava, is dedicated to the discussion of questions arising from the precariousness of the beautiful, of its experience in today's world. However, the predominant purpose is not to determine any answers attempting to finally define the debated matter, but to—by an eventual refinement of interrogation—attune a hermeneutic hearkening to the distinguishing dimensions of beauty. If, on the one hand, the tradition of hermeneutics has, throughout its opulent historic effectuation, often connected with phenomenological investigations, already offered many enticing, incitive insights into the issue, its multiple contributions, on the other hand, can receive conclusive corroboration—of repudiation—, above all, and each time afresh, through a thoughtful confrontation with the concrete situation of interpretation delineating and delimiting the horizon(s) of conversation. Thus, one of the main aims of the symposium is (also) to facilitate, within a hospitable setting of mutuality, the dialogical exchange of knowledge, opinions, and ideas between the more and the less academically accomplished, between senior and junior scholars, between teachers and students.

Since a hermeneutic conversation on beauty certainly runs the risk of losing its direction within the amply many-faceted landscape of exploration—a risk one is, we are compelled to re-assume as the task of thinking—, the organizers of the symposium have selected two texts, two essays, which shall, as precursors, serve for orientation. Although the essays, the texts “The Poet” (1844) by the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) and “On Poetry” (1972) by the Slovenian poet, prosaist, and politician Edvard Kocbek (1904–1981) reach us and speak to us, today, through tremendous divergence of times and of spaces, of cultures that co-constitute(d) the singularity of their authors, they find themselves, addressing similar, if not quite parallel solicitudes, on converging paths: as such, they re-present, not the ultimate objective of understanding re-appropriation, but an important inspiration: a guidance.

International Symposium in Hermeneutic Philosophy

ON BEAUTY: THE UTOPIA OF IMAGINATION, HERE AND NOW?

INR INSTITUTE NOVA REVIJA
FOR THE HUMANITIES

ASU
Barrett
The Honors
College
Arizona State
University

FOR_HUM
Forum za humanistiko
Forum for the Humanities
Forum per gli Studi Umanistici
Forum für Humanwissenschaften
人文学论坛

SESTAVA

— June 4–6, 2023 —

HOSTEL CELICA

— Ljubljana, Slovenia —

**ON BEAUTY:
THE UTOPIA OF IMAGINATION,
HERE AND NOW?**

DAY I

— Sunday, June 4, 2023 —

9.00–9.30	Gathering and Coffee
9.30–10.00	THE OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM DEAN KOMEL (<i>Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) TOMAŽ ZALAZNIK (<i>Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) JANKO ROŽIČ (<i>KUD Sestava; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) RAMSEY ERIC RAMSEY (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ANDREJ BOŽIČ (<i>Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ Introductory Remarks
10.00–11.30	ELISE POLL (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ♦ Breaking the Promise of Perfection Interpretive Imagination and the Utopian Novel SERGEJ VALJEV (<i>ZRC SAZU; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ Being and Beauty ADAM J. GOLDSMITH (<i>Northwestern University; Evanston, IL, USA</i>) ♦ “If I could but see a day of it” On the Aesthetic Potential for Belonging and Action
11.30–12.00	Coffee Break
12.00–13.00	JORDAN HUSTON (<i>Loyola University Chicago; Chicago, IL, USA</i>) ♦ Radiant Futures Utopian Art as a Phenomenology of Home-Seeking DARIO VUGER (<i>SF:ius; Zagreb, Croatia</i>) ♦ “Aesthetic work makes the universe bud.” Art and Complexity in Gilbert Simondon
13.30–15.00	Lunch Break
15.00–18.00	Visit to the National Gallery of Slovenia
19.00–21.00	Dinner

DAY II

— Monday, June 5, 2023 —

9.30–10.00	Gathering and Coffee
10.00–11.30	JARED RUSNAK (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ♦ A New Curriculum An Education in Interpretations for the Sake of Preservation HAILEY GILLES (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ♦ Political Poetry and Protest A Call for the Proper Conduit and the Practice of Hermeneutic Translation ZMAGO ŠVAJNCER VREČKO (<i>University of Ljubljana; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ Harmful Beauty in the Light of Spiritual Abuse
11.30–12.00	Coffee Break
12.00–13.00	JONEL KOLIČ (<i>Odprti krog; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ Beauty in and beyond Time JANKO ROŽIČ (<i>KUD Sestava; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ From the Abstract to the Concrete, from Space to Place
13.30–15.00	Lunch Break
15.00–18.00	Stroll through Ljubljana with Janko Rožič
19.00–21.00	Dinner

DAY III

— Tuesday, June 6, 2023 —

13.30–15.00	Lunch
15.30–16.00	Gathering and Coffee
16.00–18.00	Neža Zajc (<i>ZRC SAZU; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ Beauty? Between Art and Creation, between Poetry and Poetics Andrej Božič (<i>Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities; Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ “And set yourself free.” Paul Celan’s Poetics of U-Topia Lisa Fellars Watrous (<i>Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI, USA</i>) ♦ Melville’s Otherworldly Beauty A Love Story Alenka Koželj (<i>Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>) ♦ On the Beauty of the Holy Spirit A Soliloquy by Hildegard of Bingen Diane Gruber (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ♦ Reinterpreting the Past to Open the Future The Radical Imaginative Potential of Graeber and Wengrow’s <i>The Dawn of Everything</i> Ramsey Eric Ramsey (<i>Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ, USA</i>) ♦ Beauty Is Not Finished (and Neither Are We)
18.00–18.30	Coffee Break
18.30–19.30	THE CONCLUDING DISCUSSION
20.00–22.00	Concert at Hostel Celica

THE PROGRAM OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities organizes the International Symposium in Hermeneutic Philosophy within the framework of the research program *The Humanities and the Sense of Humanity from Historical and Contemporary Viewpoints* (P6-0341), the research project *The Hermeneutic Problem of the Understanding of Human Existence and Coexistence in the Epoch of Nihilism* (J7-4631), and the infrastructure program *Center for the Promotion of the Humanities* (I0-0036), which are financially supported by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS).