

The Art Instinct Beauty Pleasure And Human Evolution Denis Dutton

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Civilization and Its Discontents

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The Art Instinct combines two of the most fascinating and contentious disciplines, art and evolutionary science, in a provocative new work that will revolutionize the way art itself is perceived. Aesthetic taste, argues Denis Dutton, is an evolutionary trait, and is shaped by natural selection. It's not, as almost all contemporary art criticism and academic theory would have it, "socially constructed." The human appreciation for art is innate, and certain artistic values are universal across cultures, such as a preference for landscapes that, like the ancient savannah, feature water and distant trees. If people from Africa to Alaska prefer images that would have appealed to our hominid ancestors, what does that mean for the entire discipline of art history? Dutton argues, with forceful logic and hard evidence, that art criticism needs to be premised on an understanding of evolution, not on abstract "theory." Sure to provoke discussion in scientific circles and an uproar in the art world, The Art Instinct offers radical new insights into both the nature of art and the workings of the human mind.

Pleasure and Profit in Bible Study

Acclaimed as one of the most exciting books in the history of American letters, this modern epic became an instant bestseller upon publication in 1974, transforming a generation and continuing to inspire millions. This 25th Anniversary Quill Edition features a new introduction by the author; important typographical changes; and a Reader's Guide that includes discussion topics, an interview with the author, and

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letters and documents detailing how this extraordinary book came to be. A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and his son, the book becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live. The narrator's relationship with his son leads to a powerful self-reckoning; the craft of motorcycle maintenance leads to an austere beautiful process for reconciling science, religion, and humanism. Resonant with the confusions of existence, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is a touching and transcendent book of life.

The Art Instinct

Challenges popular conceptions in art theory and criticism to argue that human tastes in the arts are evolutionary traits shaped by Darwinian selection as opposed to social construction, in a volume that explains the role of evolution in aesthetic preferences while calling for a practice of art criticism from an evolutionary standpoint. 40,000 first printing.

The Sense of Beauty

Every human society displays some form of behavior that can be called "art," and in most societies other than our own the arts play an integral part in social life.

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Those who wish to understand art in its broadest sense, as a universal human endowment, need to go beyond modern Western elitist notions that disregard other cultures and ignore the human species' four-million-year evolutionary history. This book offers a new and unprecedentedly comprehensive theory of the evolutionary significance of art. Art, meaning not only visual art, but music, poetic language, dance, and performance, is for the first time regarded from a biobehavioral or ethical viewpoint. It is shown to be a biological necessity in human existence and fundamental characteristic of the human species. In this provocative study, Ellen Dissanayake examines art along with play and ritual as human behaviors that "make special," and proposes that making special is an inherited tendency as intrinsic to the human species as speech and toolmaking. She claims that the arts evolved as means of making socially important activities memorable and pleasurable, and thus have been essential to human survival. Avoiding simplism and reductionism, this original synthetic approach permits a fresh look at old questions about the origins, nature, purpose, and value of art. It crosses disciplinary boundaries and integrates a number of diverse fields: human ethology; evolutionary biology; the psychology and philosophy of art; physical and cultural anthropology; "primitive" and prehistoric art; Western cultural history; and children's art. The final chapter, "From Tradition to Aestheticism," explores some of the ways in which modern Western society has diverged from other societies--particularly the type of society in which human beings evolved--and considers the effects of the aberrance on our art and our attitudes toward art. This

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book is addressed to readers who have a concerned interest in the arts or in human nature and the state of modern society.

Unleash Your Inner Pleasure: 21 Secrets of Being Comfortable about Your Sexuality, Having Better Relationships and Enjoying Sex More

From Bach fugues to Indonesian gamelan, from nursery rhymes to rock, music has cast its light into every corner of human culture. But why music excites such deep passions, and how we make sense of musical sound at all, are questions that have until recently remained unanswered. Now in *The Music Instinct*, award-winning writer Philip Ball provides the first comprehensive, accessible survey of what is known--and still unknown--about how music works its magic, and why, as much as eating and sleeping, it seems indispensable to humanity. Deftly weaving together the latest findings in brain science with history, mathematics, and philosophy, *The Music Instinct* not only deepens our appreciation of the music we love, but shows that we would not be ourselves without it. The *Sunday Times* hailed it as "a wonderful account of why music matters," with Ball's "passion for music evident on every page."

The Art Instinct

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Discover what French women know about embracing that irresistible joie de vivre We all know that French women don't get fat. But their famous je ne sais quoi comes from more than just body type--something anyone can master: the old-fashioned art cultivating our inner beauty, confidence, and unique personal style, at any age. From savoring the everyday beauty around you to engaging in captivating conversations, playing dress-up, hosting impromptu dinner parties under the stars, and of course mastering the art of French flirting, the lively and inspiring lessons in this “syllabus” will help you rediscover your beautiful, fierce, romantic, engaging best self—to attract the best of everything into your life. Ready to embark on the adventure of your life? Parisian Charm School is in session....

The Conquest of Happiness

Are art and science separated by an unbridgeable divide? Can they find common ground? In this new book, neuroscientist Eric R. Kandel, whose remarkable scientific career and deep interest in art give him a unique perspective, demonstrates how science can inform the way we experience a work of art and seek to understand its meaning. Kandel illustrates how reductionism—the distillation of larger scientific or aesthetic concepts into smaller, more tractable components—has been used by scientists and artists alike to pursue their respective truths. He draws on his Nobel Prize-winning work revealing the

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neurobiological underpinnings of learning and memory in sea slugs to shed light on the complex workings of the mental processes of higher animals. In *Reductionism in Art and Brain Science*, Kandel shows how this radically reductionist approach, applied to the most complex puzzle of our time—the brain—has been employed by modern artists who distill their subjective world into color, form, and light. Kandel demonstrates through bottom-up sensory and top-down cognitive functions how science can explore the complexities of human perception and help us to perceive, appreciate, and understand great works of art. At the heart of the book is an elegant elucidation of the contribution of reductionism to the evolution of modern art and its role in a monumental shift in artistic perspective. Reductionism steered the transition from figurative art to the first explorations of abstract art reflected in the works of Turner, Monet, Kandinsky, Schoenberg, and Mondrian. Kandel explains how, in the postwar era, Pollock, de Kooning, Rothko, Louis, Turrell, and Flavin used a reductionist approach to arrive at their abstract expressionism and how Katz, Warhol, Close, and Sandback built upon the advances of the New York School to reimagine figurative and minimal art. Featuring captivating drawings of the brain alongside full-color reproductions of modern art masterpieces, this book draws out the common concerns of science and art and how they illuminate each other.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

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Civilization and Its Discontents is considered Freud's most brilliant work. In it he states his views on the broad question of man's place in the world. It has been praised, dissected, lambasted, interpreted, and reinterpreted. Originally published in 1930, it seeks to answer several questions fundamental to human society and its organization—What influences led to the creation of civilization? Why and how did it come to be? What determines civilization's trajectory? This process, argues Freud, is an inherent quality of civilization that instills perpetual feelings of discontent in its citizens. Freud's theme is that what works for civilization doesn't necessarily work for man. Man, by nature aggressive and egotistical, seeks self-satisfaction.

Remember to Love Me

The Creative Spark

The Art of Videogames explores how philosophy of the artstheories developed to address traditional art works can also be applied to videogames. Presents a unique philosophical approach to the art ofvideogaming, situating videogames in the framework of analyticphilosophy of the arts Explores how philosophical theories developed to addresstraditional art works can also be applied to videogames

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Written for a broad audience of both philosophers and videogame enthusiasts by a philosopher who is also an avid gamer Discusses the relationship between games and earlier artistic and entertainment media, how videogames allow for interactive fiction, the role of game narrative, and the moral status of violent events depicted in videogame worlds Argues that videogames do indeed qualify as a new and exciting form of representational art

A Philosophical Enquiry Into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful

The Art of Happiness

"Highly informative and remarkably entertaining." —Elle From forest trails in Korea, to islands in Finland, to eucalyptus groves in California, Florence Williams investigates the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain. Delving into brand-new research, she uncovers the powers of the natural world to improve health, promote reflection and innovation, and strengthen our relationships. As our modern lives shift dramatically indoors, these ideas—and the answers they yield—are more urgent than ever.

The Art of Freezing Pickles

How do we appreciate a work of art? Why do we like some artworks but not others? Is there no accounting for taste? Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to explore connections between art, mind, and brain, Shimamura considers how we experience art. In a thoughtful and entertaining manner, the book explores how the brain interprets art by engaging our sensations, thoughts, and emotions. It describes interesting findings from psychological and brain sciences as a way to understand our aesthetic response to art. Beauty, disgust, surprise, anger, sadness, horror, and a myriad of other emotions can occur as we experience art. Some artworks may generate such feelings rather quickly, while others depend on thought and knowledge. Our response to art depends largely on what we know--from everyday knowledge about the world, from our cultural backgrounds, and from personal experience. Filled with artworks from many traditions and time points, "Experiencing Art" offers insightful ways of broadening one's approach and appreciation of art.

Brain and Art

The Artful Species explores the idea that our aesthetic responses and art behaviors are connected to our evolved human nature. Our humanoid forerunners displayed

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aesthetic sensibilities hundreds of thousands of years ago and the art standing of prehistoric cave paintings is virtually uncontested. In Part One, Stephen Davies analyses the key concepts of the aesthetic, art, and evolution, and explores how they might be related. He considers a range of issues, including whether animals have aesthetic tastes and whether art is not only universal but cross-culturally comprehensible. Part Two examines the many aesthetic interests humans take in animals and how these reflect our biological interests, and the idea that our environmental and landscape preferences are rooted in the experiences of our distant ancestors. In considering the controversial subject of human beauty, evolutionary psychologists have traditionally focused on female physical attractiveness in the context of mate selection, but Davies presents a broader view which decouples human beauty from mate choice and explains why it goes more with social performance and self-presentation. Part Three asks if the arts, together or singly, are biological adaptations, incidental byproducts of nonart adaptations, or so removed from biology that they rate as purely cultural technologies. Davies does not conclusively support any one of the many positions considered here, but argues that there are grounds, nevertheless, for seeing art as part of human nature. Art serves as a powerful and complex signal of human fitness, and so cannot be incidental to biology. Indeed, aesthetic responses and art behaviors are the touchstones of our humanity.

Socrates

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There is a very big misconception in people that only talented and fortunate people are successful in life. But the fact is that even an average person can attain success owing to their focused and consistent effort. Most of the prominent entrepreneurs of the world have always had a very big vision in their mind. A real entrepreneur always provides satisfactory resources and amenities to his large number of employees and those employees return their full time, energy and talent for the development of the organization as a whole. Many people believe that God writes our destiny. But God doesn't make anyone rich and poor. The almighty God can never do such injustice to human. We are creating our destiny knowingly or unknowingly by our habitual patterns thinking and behaving. Dare to take responsibility of your destiny, and start working for your pleasure. Align your dream, desire and belief in one direction.

Lumen Naturae - Visions of the Abstract in Art and Mathematics

These days too many people are missing out on rewarding relationships and a fulfilling sex life. Yet they often suffer in silence. According to relationship expert Oberdan Marianetti, this unnecessary suffering is largely driven by lack of information and misplaced expectations. People usually don't know the right questions to ask or whose answers to trust. In "Unleash Your Inner Pleasure," a fun

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and informative book based on the experience of many years' study and counselling with clients, he encourages people to ask the right questions about relationships, sexuality and life. He shows that making it "normal" and easy to speak about sex means people can gain a more positive and realistic sense of being sexual and enjoy more relaxed and fulfilling relationships. Readers will come away from this book tickled by what they read, comfortable addressing their questions with those around them and curious to explore more.

The fable of the Bees

Bertrand Arthur William Russell, (18 May 1872–2 February 1970) was a British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic and political activist. At various points in his life he considered himself a liberal, a socialist, and a pacifist. In the early 20th century, Russell led the British "revolt against idealism". He is considered one of the founders of analytic philosophy along with his predecessor Gottlob Frege, colleague G. E. Moore, and his protégé Ludwig Wittgenstein. He is widely held to be one of the 20th century's premier logicians. With A. N. Whitehead he wrote *Principia Mathematica*, an attempt to create a logical basis for mathematics. His philosophical essay "On Denoting" has been considered a "paradigm of philosophy". His work has had a considerable influence on logic, mathematics, set theory, linguistics, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and philosophy, especially the philosophy of language,

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epistemology, and metaphysics.

What Is Art For?

A FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW, SMITHSONIAN, AND WALL STREET JOURNAL A major reimagining of how evolutionary forces work, revealing how mating preferences—what Darwin termed "the taste for the beautiful"—create the extraordinary range of ornament in the animal world. In the great halls of science, dogma holds that Darwin's theory of natural selection explains every branch on the tree of life: which species thrive, which wither away to extinction, and what features each evolves. But can adaptation by natural selection really account for everything we see in nature? Yale University ornithologist Richard Prum—reviving Darwin's own views—thinks not. Deep in tropical jungles around the world are birds with a dizzying array of appearances and mating displays: Club-winged Manakins who sing with their wings, Great Argus Pheasants who dazzle prospective mates with a four-foot-wide cone of feathers covered in golden 3D spheres, Red-capped Manakins who moonwalk. In thirty years of fieldwork, Prum has seen numerous display traits that seem disconnected from, if not outright contrary to, selection for individual survival. To explain this, he dusts off Darwin's long-neglected theory of sexual selection in which the act of choosing a mate for purely aesthetic reasons—for the mere pleasure of it—is an independent engine of evolutionary

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change. Mate choice can drive ornamental traits from the constraints of adaptive evolution, allowing them to grow ever more elaborate. It also sets the stakes for sexual conflict, in which the sexual autonomy of the female evolves in response to male sexual control. Most crucially, this framework provides important insights into the evolution of human sexuality, particularly the ways in which female preferences have changed male bodies, and even maleness itself, through evolutionary time. *The Evolution of Beauty* presents a unique scientific vision for how nature's splendor contributes to a more complete understanding of evolution and of ourselves.

The Theory of Moral Sentiments

The bestselling author of *The Willpower Instinct* introduces a surprising science-based book that doesn't tell us why we should exercise but instead shows us how to fall in love with movement. Exercise is health-enhancing and life-extending, yet many of us feel it's a chore. But, as Kelly McGonigal reveals, it doesn't have to be. Movement can and should be a source of joy. Through her trademark blend of science and storytelling, McGonigal draws on insights from neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, and evolutionary biology, as well as memoirs, ethnographies, and philosophers. She shows how movement is intertwined with some of the most basic human joys, including self-expression, social connection, and mastery--and why it is a powerful antidote to the modern epidemics of

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depression, anxiety, and loneliness. McGonigal tells the stories of people who have found fulfillment and belonging through running, walking, dancing, swimming, weightlifting, and more, with examples that span the globe, from Tanzania, where one of the last hunter-gatherer tribes on the planet live, to a dance class at Juilliard for people with Parkinson's disease, to the streets of London, where volunteers combine fitness and community service, to races in the remote wilderness, where athletes push the limits of what a human can endure. Along the way, McGonigal paints a portrait of human nature that highlights our capacity for hope, cooperation, and self-transcendence. The result is a revolutionary narrative that goes beyond familiar arguments in favor of exercise, to illustrate why movement is integral to both our happiness and our humanity. Readers will learn what they can do in their own lives and communities to harness the power of movement to create happiness, meaning, and connection.

The Art of Being Awesome

"How Art Works explores puzzles that have preoccupied philosophers as well as the general public: Can art be defined? How do we decide what is good art? Why do we gravitate to sadness in art? Why do we devalue a perfect fake? Could 'my kid have done that'? Does reading fiction enhance empathy? Drawing on careful observations, probing interviews, and clever experiments, Ellen Winner reveals surprising answers to these and other artistic mysteries."--Jacket.

Feeling Beauty

A brilliant book by Nobel Prize winner Eric R. Kandel, *The Age of Insight* takes us to Vienna 1900, where leaders in science, medicine, and art began a revolution that changed forever how we think about the human mind—our conscious and unconscious thoughts and emotions—and how mind and brain relate to art. At the turn of the century, Vienna was the cultural capital of Europe. Artists and scientists met in glittering salons, where they freely exchanged ideas that led to revolutionary breakthroughs in psychology, brain science, literature, and art. Kandel takes us into the world of Vienna to trace, in rich and rewarding detail, the ideas and advances made then, and their enduring influence today. The Vienna School of Medicine led the way with its realization that truth lies hidden beneath the surface. That principle infused Viennese culture and strongly influenced the other pioneers of Vienna 1900. Sigmund Freud shocked the world with his insights into how our everyday unconscious aggressive and erotic desires are repressed and disguised in symbols, dreams, and behavior. Arthur Schnitzler revealed women's unconscious sexuality in his novels through his innovative use of the interior monologue. Gustav Klimt, Oscar Kokoschka, and Egon Schiele created startlingly evocative and honest portraits that expressed unconscious lust, desire, anxiety, and the fear of death. Kandel tells the story of how these pioneers—Freud, Schnitzler, Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele—inspired by the Vienna School of Medicine, in turn influenced the founders of the Vienna School of Art History to ask

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pivotal questions such as What does the viewer bring to a work of art? How does the beholder respond to it? These questions prompted new and ongoing discoveries in psychology and brain biology, leading to revelations about how we see and perceive, how we think and feel, and how we respond to and create works of art. Kandel, one of the leading scientific thinkers of our time, places these five innovators in the context of today's cutting-edge science and gives us a new understanding of the modernist art of Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele, as well as the school of thought of Freud and Schnitzler. Reinvigorating the intellectual enquiry that began in Vienna 1900, *The Age of Insight* is a wonderfully written, superbly researched, and beautifully illustrated book that also provides a foundation for future work in neuroscience and the humanities. It is an extraordinary book from an international leader in neuroscience and intellectual history.

Survival of the Prettiest

How Art Works

"A brilliant debut novel full of romance and heartbreak, that pulls tight at your heartstrings and ensnares you with magical prose and lyrical beauty." 1900 - Annabelle yearns for nothing more than motherhood and her duty to provide an

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heir to devoted husband Richard Hardwick, successor to a wealthy family fortune. Her younger sister Emily, engaged to Lance Corporal James Wright, imagines only wedded bliss, but as darkness falls in the shape of War, James is deployed to South Africa, leaving her alone with an uncertain future. As melancholy festers, Emily escapes taking solace by the sea. As the distance stretches between the sisters, so too does the life-thread of family. 1997 - As her 21st birthday approaches, April reluctantly moves closer to her Grandmother Sarah, to her mother's childhood home of Bury St Edmunds, in the heart of the Suffolk countryside. As she struggling to adjust, pining for her seaside upbringing, she takes solace in the bond she shares with her grandmother. In a visit to the attic one December afternoon, she discovers more than just dusty tea chests and old suitcases. She encounters an ancestor that has remained, a ghostly apparition whispering secrets in the shadows. Confronted with visions and dreams; memories of a lost time, grave secrets, sisterly love, romance and family loyalties that stretch beyond even love's limits. April is thrown into turmoil, living moments in two eras, experiencing love and loss in both. Piecing together snippets of another life, giving peace back to the house and laying ghosts to rest; she unfolds the mystery of her family's Supernatural legacy.

The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative

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-- Hayden White, Stanford University

Art as Experience

A lighthearted survey of the science of mistakes by the authors of Chances Are reveals how the human race is hard-wired to get things wrong in countless ways, citing such examples as successful racy advertisements for inferior products, our inclinations to favor dysfunctional relationship partners and the socially unacceptable behaviors of leaders. Reprint.

The Aesthetic Brain

The Art of Freezing Pickles is about a tiny fictional town in Alabama with a large heart. It is a place where one can be met without the pre-wash of prejudice, where one is judged by who they are and not by what they look like or how they talk. The story begins with the colorful townsfolk and farmers, neighbors you will soon learn to love as you become a part of this wise and accepting community. Eventually the artists discover the beauty and warmth of the place and begin to migrate and assimilate.

Parisian Charm School

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The Aesthetic Brain takes the reader on a wide-ranging journey addressing fundamental questions about aesthetics and art. Using neuroscience and evolutionary psychology, Chatterjee shows how beauty, pleasure, and art are grounded biologically, and offers explanations for why beauty, pleasure, and art exist at all.

The Art of Videogames

A theory of the neural bases of aesthetic experience across the arts, which draws on the tools of both cognitive neuroscience and traditional humanist inquiry. In *Feeling Beauty*, G. Gabrielle Starr argues that understanding the neural underpinnings of aesthetic experience can reshape our conceptions of aesthetics and the arts. Drawing on the tools of both cognitive neuroscience and traditional humanist inquiry, Starr shows that neuroaesthetics offers a new model for understanding the dynamic and changing features of aesthetic life, the relationships among the arts, and how individual differences in aesthetic judgment shape the varieties of aesthetic experience. Starr, a scholar of the humanities and a researcher in the neuroscience of aesthetics, proposes that aesthetic experience relies on a distributed neural architecture--a set of brain areas involved in emotion, perception, imagery, memory, and language. More important, it emerges from networked interactions, intricately connected and coordinated brain systems that together form a flexible architecture enabling us to develop new arts and to see

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the world around us differently. Focusing on the "sister arts" of poetry, painting, and music, Starr builds and tests a neural model of aesthetic experience valid across all the arts. Asking why works that address different senses using different means seem to produce the same set of feelings, she examines particular works of art in a range of media, including a poem by Keats, a painting by van Gogh, a sculpture by Bernini, and Beethoven's Diabelli Variations. Starr's innovative, interdisciplinary analysis is true to the complexities of both the physical instantiation of aesthetics and the realities of artistic representation.

The Ironist's Cage

The marriage of idealism and skepticism in Socrates' thought, his sense of education as self-discovery; his view of philosophy as preparation for life: these have been the stuff of Western thought at its best.

The Age of Insight

Based originally on Dewey's lectures on esthetics, this book is considered the most distinguished work ever written by an American on the formal structures and characteristic effects of all the arts.

Pleasure the Basic Need of Human

Brian Boyd explains why we tell stories and how our minds are shaped to understand them. After considering art as adaptation, Boyd examines Homer's *Odyssey* and Dr. Seuss's *Horton Hears a Who!* demonstrating how an evolutionary lens can offer new understanding and appreciation of specific works. Published for the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*, Boyd's study embraces a Darwinian view of human nature and art, and offers a credo for a new humanism.

Bozo Sapiens

The Dinka have a connoisseur's appreciation of the patterns and colours of the markings on their cattle. The Japanese tea ceremony is regarded as a performance art. Some cultures produce carving but no drawing; others specialize in poetry. Yet despite the rich variety of artistic expression to be found across many cultures, we all share a deep sense of aesthetic pleasure. The need to create art of some form is found in every human society. In *The Art Instinct*, Denis Dutton explores the idea that this need has an evolutionary basis: how the feelings that we all share when we see a wonderful landscape or a beautiful sunset evolved as a useful adaptation in our hunter-gather ancestors, and have been passed on to us today,

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manifest in our artistic natures. Why do people indulge in displaying their artistic skills? How can we understand artistic genius? Why do we value art, and what is it for? These questions have long been asked by scholars in the humanities and in literature, but this is the first book to consider the biological basis of this deep human need. This sparking and intelligent book looks at these deep and fundamental questions, and combines the science of evolutionary psychology with aesthetics, to shed new light on longstanding questions about the nature of art.

The Art Instinct

"This book is about how certain ideas related to the concept of space in mathematics and physics have been expressed, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in contemporary and abstract art. It discusses the notion of space, and related abstract notions such as randomness, entropy, the geometry of numbers, the shape of the cosmos, and how such notions were envisioned and elaborated in both scientific developments and across the history of modern and contemporary art, especially abstract art. The author, a mathematical physicist, presents a series of mathematical and scientific concepts and themes and describe their counterparts in the work of (mostly) contemporary artists. Readers with a more advanced scientific background will find precise mathematical terminology, while the material is organized so that people can also read through the text by ignoring the more technical aspects and still follow easily the plain language

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explanation of ideas and concepts. Scientifically minded readers will recognize familiar concepts, such as entropy, randomness, and topology, as playing an important role in the language of abstract art. Artists, art historians, and art enthusiasts who are curious about the ideas underlying modern developments in mathematics and theoretical physics will see the connections to the work of contemporary artists"--

Experiencing Art

Reductionism in Art and Brain Science

"This book shows you how to become a completely positive person - no matter what happens to you." ~Brian Tracy - Author, The Power of Self- Confidence "What could you accomplish if you were in complete control of your attitude? The simple, yet powerful techniques in this book will help you to master the behaviors that give you that life-changing control." ~Tom Feltenstein - CEO, Power Marketing Academy "The Art of Being Awesome is filled with advice and ideas that are deceptively simple, yet profoundly powerful. Told in Stephen Shaner's delightful and distinctive voice, this book outlines the personal, proven, and painless steps anyone can take to change their lives in AWESOME ways!" ~Betty Liedtke, Certified Dream Coach,

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Founder/CEO of Find Your Buried Treasure "Stephen Shaner has written a book that is remarkable for its wisdom, clarity, and insights about simple but powerful ways anyone can build an empowered attitude. Writing with an engaging humility and flashes of humor, Stephen introduces the reader to paradigms that will alter the way one experiences other people and life. My favorite paradigm is that "the words and vocabulary that we use matter." No wonder that whenever I ask Stephen how he's doing, he always replies, "Awesome!" I am happy to recommend this book by Stephen Shaner - an awesome human being who unselfishly shows that becoming awesome is within the grasp of every person who chooses to do so." ~Dilip R. Abayasekara, Ph.D., Accredited Speaker Author, The Path of the Genie - Your Journey to Your Heart's Desire Past President, Toastmasters International (2005-2006) Our attitudes and beliefs have a direct correlation with the quality of our personal and professional lives. In this book you will discover proven techniques that will enable you to: - Take control of your mood and attitude in any situation or circumstance. - Define the life changing words that will empower you and those around you. - Build strong relationships with small but powerful attitude adjustments. - Do simple and fun activities to significantly increase your energy. - Take Success Literature to the next level. - Unleash the power of gratitude.

The Artful Species

A provocative and thoroughly researched inquiry into what we find beautiful and

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why, skewering the myth that the pursuit of beauty is a learned behavior. In *Survival of the Prettiest*, Nancy Etcoff, a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and a practicing psychologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, argues that beauty is neither a cultural construction, an invention of the fashion industry, nor a backlash against feminism—it's in our biology. Beauty, she explains, is an essential and ineradicable part of human nature that is revered and ferociously pursued in nearly every civilization—and for good reason. Those features to which we are most attracted are often signals of fertility and fecundity. When seen in the context of a Darwinian struggle for survival, our sometimes extreme attempts to attain beauty—both to become beautiful ourselves and to acquire an attractive partner—suddenly become much more understandable. Moreover, if we understand how the desire for beauty is innate, then we can begin to work in our own interests, and not just the interests of our genetic tendencies.

On the Origin of Stories

Could we understand, in biological terms, the unique and fantastic capabilities of the human brain to both create and enjoy art? In the past decade neuroscience has made a huge leap in developing experimental techniques as well as theoretical frameworks for studying emergent properties following the activity of large neuronal networks. These methods, including MEG, fMRI, sophisticated data analysis approaches and behavioral methods, are increasingly being used in many

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labs worldwide, with the goal to explore brain mechanisms corresponding to the artistic experience. The 37 articles composing this unique Frontiers Research Topic bring together experimental and theoretical research, linking state-of-the-art knowledge about the brain with the phenomena of Art. It covers a broad scope of topics, contributed by world-renowned experts in vision, audition, somato-sensation, movement, and cinema. Importantly, as we felt that a dialog among artists and scientists is essential and fruitful, we invited a few artists to contribute their insights, as well as their art. Joan Miró said that “art is the search for the alphabet of the mind.” This volume reflects the state of the art search to understand neurobiological alphabet of the Arts. We hope that the wide range of articles in this volume will be highly attractive to brain researchers, artists and the community at large.

The Joy of Movement

A bold new synthesis of paleontology, archaeology, genetics, and anthropology that overturns misconceptions about race, war and peace, and human nature itself, answering an age-old question: What made humans so exceptional among all the species on Earth? Creativity. It is the secret of what makes humans special, hiding in plain sight. Agustín Fuentes argues that your child's finger painting comes essentially from the same place as creativity in hunting and gathering millions of years ago, and throughout history in making war and peace, in intimate

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relationships, in shaping the planet, in our communities, and in all of art, religion, and even science. It requires imagination and collaboration. Every poet has her muse; every engineer, an architect; every politician, a constituency. The manner of the collaborations varies widely, but successful collaboration is inseparable from imagination, and it brought us everything from knives and hot meals to iPhones and interstellar spacecraft. Weaving fascinating stories of our ancient ancestors' creativity, Fuentes finds the patterns that match modern behavior in humans and animals. This key quality has propelled the evolutionary development of our bodies, minds, and cultures, both for good and for bad. It's not the drive to reproduce; nor competition for mates, or resources, or power; nor our propensity for caring for one another that have separated us out from all other creatures. As Fuentes concludes, to make something lasting and useful today you need to understand the nature of your collaboration with others, what imagination can and can't accomplish, and, finally, just how completely our creativity is responsible for the world we live in. Agustín Fuentes's resounding multimillion-year perspective will inspire readers—and spark all kinds of creativity.

The Evolution of Beauty

The great philosopher, essayist, poet, and novelist masterfully offers his fascinating outline of Aesthetics Theory. Drawing on the art, literature, and social sciences involved, Santayana discusses the nature of beauty, form, and

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expression.

The Music Instinct

Drawing on more than 2,500 years of Buddhist tradition and teaching, the spiritual leader demonstrates how to confront the negative emotions, stresses, and obstacles of everyday life in order to find the source of inner peace.

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