

Concepts

(In the 21st Century)

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General argument

- I argue that unity, truth, and goodness are transcendental properties of being, whereas beauty is a *derived* property from these three.
- It is when *we* see those three properties shining together in something, we call it *beautiful*.
- But to have some idea about transcendentals, first some ideas about *particulars*, *concepts* and *universals* are would be helpful.

This talk

- There is a real distinction between the ontological order and the logical order.
- *(Somehow, by analogy, beauty belongs to the logical, whereas unity, truth and goodness belong to the ontological order.)*
- Some things are real ontologically and real logically, like cats and dogs. But some things are real logically only, like music.
- *(Somehow, by analogy, beauty is more like music than cats and dogs.)*
- But cats and dogs do not recognise music, only intelligent corporeal beings.
- *(Somehow, by analogy, beauty requires intellectual capacity, implying an immaterial nature.)*

Nothing abstract exists without abstraction. And abstraction is an intellectual process by which we recognise what is literally shared by a multiplicity of particular things.

David Oderberg

Ontologically real

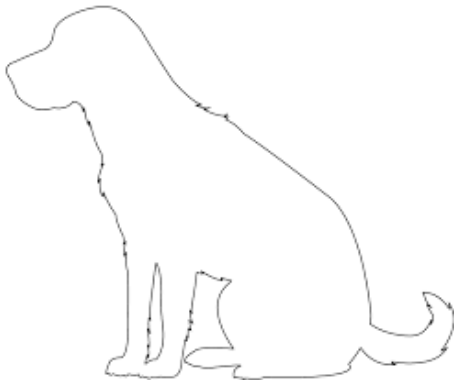
Substances



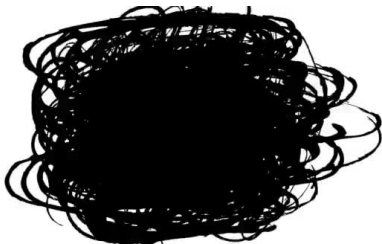
Logically real

Concepts and Judgement

Intentional form



Swappable attributes



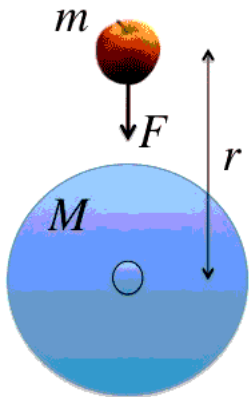
Ontologically real

Experimental data



Logically real

Descriptive, not operative, laws



$$F = ma$$

$$\frac{GMm}{r^2} = ma$$

$$a = \frac{GM}{r^2} = g$$

More logical than ontological

Music produced



Music's correspondence

- Art imitates nature.
- Music, an art, is not distinct from us like a cat or dog is, as it does not imitate something distinct from us.
- Rather, it imitates the passions themselves, those powers within us that move us to action.

Music's parts

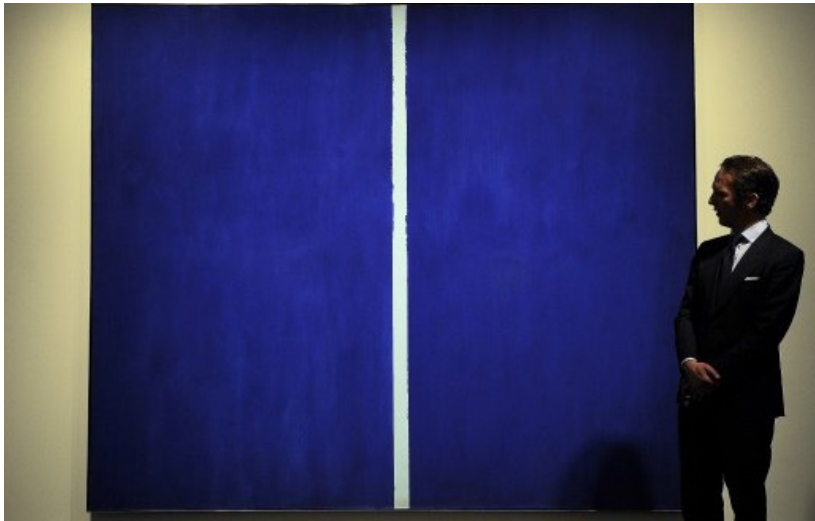
The image displays two musical staves, each with a treble and bass clef, illustrating the components of music. The top staff is marked *dolce* and features a green box labeled "Rhythm" around the first measure. A red bracket labeled "Harmony" spans the first two measures. The bottom staff features a green box labeled "Rhythm" around the first measure and a blue box labeled "Melody" around the first measure. Both staves include fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents, asterisks, and *Red.*).

We see properties shining together

- Melody is simple — the intellect grasps unities (essences).
- Harmony accompanies melody — the will desires the good presented by the intellect.
- Rhythm sustains both — the body operates at a tempo (breathing, heartbeat, etc).
- ... But music is the whole thing.

Intrinsic immateriality

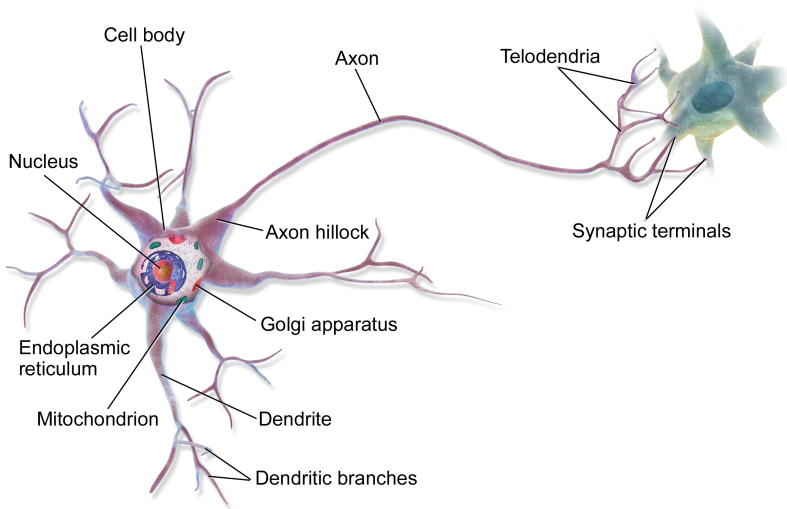
Abstraction produces a concept



Semantically simple — no parts



Where is 'unity' stored?



Act of the intellect

1. Simple Apprehension

- Intention: *Essences or Natures*
- Product: *Concept*
- Characteristics: *Clear or Unclear*
- Question: *What?*

2. Judgement

- Intention: *Acts of Existence*
- Product: *Proposition*
- Characteristic: *True or False*
- Question: *Whether?*

3. Reasoning

- Intention: *Causes or Reasons*
- Product: *Argument*
- Characteristics: *Valid or Invalid*
- Question: *Why?*

Considerations

- ‘Real’ has at least two senses — out there, and in the mind.
- The intellect analyses — splits unities into conceptual differences.
- The intellect synthesises — unites conceptual differences into a whole.
- Unity, truth and goodness are abstract — likewise rhythm, harmony and melody.
- The intellect synthesises this as beauty — likewise as music.

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