

Infinity in language - conceptualization of the experience of the sublime

Cambridge Scholars - The History of the Sublime



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Infinity in Language: Conceptualization of the Experience of the Sublime

The sublime object shares many of the characteristics that the infant attributes to the maternal body formlessness, scale, lack of limits of boundaries and like the maternal body, it seems to offer a simultaneously desired and dreaded annihilation of the self, merged back into the cosmos or the maternal body. Edmund Burke, studio of Sir Joshua Reynolds, NPG London Consistent with the dominant philosophical way of thinking in Britain during his life, Burke was an empiricist. Artists wanted to produce work that translated the awe, terror, boundlessness, and divinity experienced at these dramatic spots that many Americans had not seen in person.

The History of the Sublime

Even where Longinus brings in an example of a love poem by Sappho 17 , this passage is a description of the sensation of the body seeming to fragment under the violent throes of love and jealousy. The loss of natural beauty was, at this time, broadly understood as a symptom of political and moral corruption. The numinous is a mysterious feeling that lies outside the spheres of rational thinking and morality.

The Sublime

The infinite, poetically speaking, is sublimity and is so overwhelming that poets, like Giacomo Leopardi and Emily Dickinson, who venture into this topos ultimately recognize the vanity of any infinite search.

The Sublime

About Conjectures on Creativity by Edward Young, 2006. The latter emerges without having to differentiate itself from the finite.

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