

Essay on the sublime (1747)

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Uvedale Essay On The Picturesque

From all this, I think I may fairly conclude, that the sublime of power is from its object being vast and immense.

The Sublime: A Reader in British Eighteenth

Burke takes a step further and proposes that at the basis of terror - and thus of the sublime - is our sense of our mortality. Perhaps what sticks out as interesting about Burke, however, is what he adds to this canon of objects: we find a host of urban — or perhaps urbane — images discussed in terms of the sublime: theatres and public executions, street preaching, fireworks displays, architectural expressions of power, and so on.

Lectures on the Fine Arts

Is the sublime a stylistic convention of visual representation? As to the love of our country, or rather universal benevolence, which like the sun every where diffuses itself, who can have any idea of it, without taking into his view large societies, numberless nations, all mankind reaching from pole to pole, from the rising to the setting sun? The grand may be so blended with the pathetic and warm, in the description of battles, as difficultly to be divided, and consequently the complex sensation from thence as difficultly resolved. We often confess the sublime as we do the deity; it fills and dilates our soul without being able to penetrate into its nature, and define its essence.

Essay on The Caribbean Identity

Baldness seems to be an exception, as there smoothness is picturesque, and not beautiful. Andrew Ashfield and Peter de Bolla's anthology, which includes an introduction and notes to each entry, offers students and scholars ready access to a much deeper and more complex tradition of writings on the Sublime, many of them never before printed in modern editions.

Related Books

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