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Critical Communities and Aesthetic Practices

Dialogues with Tony O'Connor on Society, Art, and Friendship

- Current critical perspectives on the contemporary relevance of aesthetics
- Committed contemporary positions theorizing open, undefinable and unpredictable communities, such as audiences, peers and friends, in critical discourse
- Explorations of dialogue and aesthetic practice both as models for critique and as generators of communities.
- Authors includes eminent international philosophers who address contemporary debates in philosophical hermeneutics and phenomenology on aesthetics and politics

Critical Communities and Aesthetic Practices brings together eminent international philosophers to discuss the inter-dependence of critical communities and aesthetic practices. Their contributions share a hermeneutical commitment to dialogue, both as a model for critique and as a generator of community. Two conclusions emerge: The first is that one's relationships with others will always be central in determining the social, political, and artistic forms that philosophical self-reflection will take. The second is that our practices of aesthetic judgment are bound up with our efforts as philosophers to adapt ourselves and our objects of interest to the inescapably historical and indeterminate conditions of experience. The papers collected here address the issue that critical communities and aesthetic practices are never politically neutral and can never be abstracted from their particular contexts. It is for this reason that the contributors investigate the politics, not of laws, parties or state constitutions, but of open, indefinably critical communities such as audiences, peers and friends. Critical Communities and Aesthetic Practices is distinctive in providing a current selection of prominent positions, written for this volume. Together, these comprise a pluralist, un-homogenized collection that brings into focus contemporary debates on critical and aesthetic practices.

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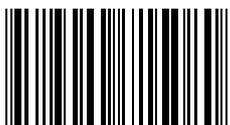
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