Can Cognitive Science Teach Us Anything about Art?
digital image analysis, artistic style, affective perception, and the neuroscience of dance

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There has been an explosion of interest in the marriage of cognitive science and aesthetics in recent years. However, some prominent philosophers (Alva Noë, Strange Tools, Hill and Wang, 2016) and art critics (Blake Gopnik, “Aesthetic Science and Artistic Knowledge,” in eds. Arthur Shimamura & Stephen Palmer, Aesthetic
Science: Connecting Minds, Brains, and Experience, Oxford, 2013) have questioned whether this research truly adds anything to our understanding of art. The question is whether cognitive science and aesthetics is looking for art in the right place. Can an investigation of our ordinary psychological engagement with artworks reveal what makes this category of artifacts unique and so deeply meaningful to us? Bill Seeley will discuss how recent research in computer science, neuroscience of dance, and affective neuroscience has been used to answer this skeptical concern.