

EXISTENTIAL AESTHETICS

an international
conference

july 26-27

JULY 26-27 • NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Keynote Speakers: Alex King, Sandra Shapshay,
Yuriko Saito, and Kathleen M. Higgins

All events will take place at The Northern Center, Peninsula Rooms I and II,
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

Friday, July 26, 2024

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| 8:30–9:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:30–9:45 a.m. | Opening remarks by Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University) |
| 9:45–10:30 a.m. | Hans Maes (University of Kent)
“Take It Personally: An Exploration of Existential Aesthetics” |
| 10:30–11:00 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m. | “Michael” Cunningham (Independent Scholar)
“On the Trail: The Aesthetics of Hiking”
Stephanie Schuster (University of Basel)
“On the Existential Meaning of Natural Beauty” |
| 12:30–2:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 2:00–3:30 p.m. | Sandra Shapshay (Hunter College/CUNY)
“Finding My Religion: Personal Conversion in Experiences in Contemporary Fiction vs. Philosophy”
Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University)
“On Being Inspired by Art” |
| 3:30–4:00 p.m. | Coffee break |
| 4:00–5:30 p.m. | Angela Sun (Washington and Lee University)
“The Aesthetic Costs of Being Medicated”
Alex King (Simon Fraser University)
“Existential Lessons from Reality TV” |
| 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Dinner |

Saturday, July 27, 2024

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| 8:30–9:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:30–11:00 a.m. | Christopher Early (University of Liverpool)
“The Aesthetics of Living through History”

Jeannette Bicknell (Independent Scholar)
“The Everyday and the Existential: Waiting as an Aesthetic Experience” |
| 11:00–11:30 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Kathleen Higgins (University of Texas, Austin)
“Existential Disruptions and Aesthetic Interventions”

Juan Carlos Gonzalez (University of California, San Diego)
“From Germany, to Mexico, and Back: Schiller and Antonio Caso on Aesthetics as a Remedy to Existential Crisis” |
| 1:00–2:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 2:30–4:00 p.m. | John Dyck (Auburn University)
“Simple Beauty”

Richard Eldridge (Swarthmore College)
“The Aesthetic Authority of Lyric” |
| 4:00–4:30 p.m. | Coffee break |
| 4:30–5:15 p.m. | Yuriko Saito (Rhode Island School of Design)
“Practicing Care: Living with Things” |
| 5:15–5:30 p.m. | Closing remarks by Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University) |
| 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Dinner |

Acknowledgments

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The conference organizers are Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University) and Hans Maes (University of Kent).

The supports staff are Northern Michigan University students Gwen Feamster, Adam Grabowski, Abby Kerr, Sophie McDonald, Chloe Patterson, and Natalie White.

