

Mojca KÜPLEN

***Cognitive Importance of Beauty and Ugliness
in Light of Kant's Theory of Aesthetic Ideas***

The aim of my paper is to address the question whether and how Kant's theory of aesthetic ideas can be interpreted in a way that can explain the cognitive significance of ugliness and beauty. In particular, I am to show that beauty and ugliness can communicate and evoke ideas of reason, emotions, attitudes and values for which we do not have a full empirical counterpart.

The discussion will proceed as follows: *First*, I will examine the role of aesthetic ideas in the appreciation of art works. I intend to show that artistic communication of aesthetic ideas can provide us with a rare opportunity of *recognizing* certain mental states, emotions and ideas that cannot be directly represented, and furthermore, to discuss how recognition of our subjective experiences in a perceptible form can facilitate self-awareness and self-knowledge. *Second*, I aim to explore the relationship between aesthetic ideas and aesthetic concepts of beauty and ugliness, and moreover to show that aesthetic ideas need not be only of what is beautiful, but can also be of what is ugly and gives rise to displeasure (an ugly aesthetic idea). *Third*, I will explain the association of beauty and ugliness with aesthetic ideas by referring to Kant's notion of a reflective power of judgment and the *a priori* principle of purposiveness.

Mojca KÜPLEN, PhD, is a research fellow at the Institute of Philosophy of the Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. She completed her doctorate in Philosophy in June 2013 at the Central European University in Budapest, with a dissertation entitled *The Problem of Ugliness in Light of Kant's Aesthetics*. Her publications include: "Kant and the Problem of Pure Judgments of Ugliness", in *Kant Studies Online* (2013): 102-143; "Aesthetic of Ugliness: a Kantian Perspective", in *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics*, vol. 5 (2013): 260-279; "Guyer's Interpretation of Free Harmony in Kant", in *Postgraduate Journal of Aesthetics* 10 (2) (2013): 17-32; "Disgust and Ugliness: a Kantian Perspective", in *Contemporary Aesthetics* 9 (April 2011); "Aesthetic Representation of Purposiveness and the Concept of Beauty in Kant's Aesthetics: The Solution of the 'Everything is Beautiful' Problem", in *Philosophical Inquiries* (forthcoming, 2015). Upcoming is her book "The Paradox of Ugliness in Light of Kant's Aesthetics" published by *Springer Series "German Idealism"*. She is also a member of the board of review for *British Journal of Aesthetics and Philosophy Study*, *David Publishing Company Journal*. Her current research is focused on the relation between aesthetics and cognition. In light of Kant's aesthetics, she argues for a version of aesthetic cognitivism approach. E-mail: Kuplen.Mojca@btk.mta.hu.

