

SdE – aesthetic studies

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Call for papers issue 3/2025 (expected release: November 2025)

Issue's title: Aesthetics and Medieval Thought

Edited by: Andrea Colli (Università di Bologna)

Deadline for proposals: **September 1, 2025**

Instructions

Proposals must be sent as an attachment to an email sent to sde@mimesisedizioni.it in the form of an anonymous document (in .doc or .docx format).

The text must comply with the standards indicated in the document that can be downloaded at the following link:

<https://ojsupgrade.mimesisedizioni.it/documenti/sde/editorial-guidelines.pdf>

The texts received will be subjected to double blind peer review.

Texts in Italian, English, German and French are welcome:

In addition to the text, it is necessary to attach a document containing:

- an abstract in English (max 150 words)
- three keywords in English
- the author's details (name and surname, affiliation, email address)

Description

In medieval thought, aesthetics played a multifaceted role intertwined with theological, philosophical, and artistic perspectives. Rooted in a worldview deeply influenced by Ancient Greek tradition, medieval thinkers pondered the nature of beauty, its relationship with the divine, and its moral significance. In the Late Ancient period, authors such as Augustine and Boethius emphasize the inward contemplation of divine beauty as a pathway to spiritual enlightenment. For Scholastic theologian, such as Thomas Aquinas or Bonaventure, however, beauty seems to be considered a “transcendental” property reflecting God's perfection in creation. Then, the very structure of 13th-century writings, such as the *summae* or *quaestiones disputatae* presents the characteristics of a work of art, similar to those of the cathedrals that were being built in those years.

This special issue aims to explore these and other possible combinations between aesthetics and medieval thought.

Some suggestions for proposals are the following ones:

- Reception of concepts, key-words, and definitions from Ancient Greek aesthetics
- Sources of aesthetic reflection in Christian, Islamic, and Jewish theology
- Natural philosophy and aesthetics (i.e. beauty of creation)
- Aesthetics and moral discourse
- Writings on medieval theology and philosophy as work of art