

SKBU JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
PEER REVIEWED

**THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND MORALITY: CONTEMPORARY
DEBATE**

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Abstract

This paper explores the relationship between art and morality, focusing on the major perspectives in this regard: moralism, aestheticism (or autonomism), and moderate moralism. Moralism endorses a relationship between art and morality and suggests aesthetic reductionism, according to which aesthetic values can be subsumed under moral considerations. In contrast, aestheticism or autonomism maintains a strict separation between art and morality and rejects the relevance of ethical criticism in the evaluation of art. The paper critically examines these opposing viewpoints, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each position. It also introduces a more nuanced approach, moderate moralism, regarding the relationship between art and morality, which proposes the idea that moral values can influence aesthetic judgment, though this influence is contingent. By engaging with contemporary debates, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how art and morality intersect, and whether ethical criticism of art can be justified. Finally, the discussion shows the complexity of this relationship, emphasizing that neither moral values nor aesthetic values can solely explain the diverse purposes and impacts of art.

Keywords: Art, aesthetic evaluation, ethical criticism, morality, moralism, autonomi