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Taste in Anne-Thérèse de Marguenat de Courcelles, Marquise de Lambert (1647–1733)

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According to Lambert, aesthetic judgments are uncertain because taste varies widely from one person to another. Judgments of taste are rooted in subjective intuitions rather than in logical demonstrations. Nonetheless, not all judgments about the beauty of an artwork are equal in worth. Some noetic agents make more convincing aesthetic judgments because they recognize more accurately an object's quality of form. They intuit the balance, harmony, and integrity of a particular work. Such intuitions involve an emotive sympathy for the work as well as the critical capacity to discern a work's formal qualities.

Primary Source:

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Keywords:

aesthetics, art, beauty, form, intuition, judgment