



Japanese tourist, before collapse; *The Great Beauty* (2013)

The Stendhal Syndrome and the Aura of Architecture

Don Kunze and Dr. Kōan Jeff Baysa, MD, Organizers

The sudden collapse or even death of spectators of works of art, landscape panoramas, musical performances, or even books gave clinical meaning to Walter Benjamin's idea of the "aura of the work of art," but it contradicted Benjamin's claim that aura was no longer available in modern society. The organizers connect the Stendhal Syndrome (named after the 19c. author Marie-Henri Bayle) to the architectural–psychoanalytical construct of the "fourth wall" buffer between performers and audience in theater and film. Expanding this to include all arts as performative, Baysa and Kunze open discussion to see if awe still plays a role in the experience of art, and if this "structure of wonder" is in fact a kind of primordial, psychoanalytical, architecture of awe.

Zoom Symposium

session 1: informal conversation (august 15, 1 pm eastern standard daylight savings time, US)

session 2: presentations & discussion (tentatively, october 17)

session 3: engaging a larger audience (tba)

the open conversation

1. To get a recording of the zoom session held August 15, [follow this link](#). Passcode: @!c4JTC2
2. plan to come to the second zoom symposium, **October 17, 2021**.
3. How does the Stendhal Syndrome relate to Lacan's theories of anxiety? Is there a topology of the Stendhal? What are the neurological aspects that might relate to Lacanian *jouissance*? Are there less intense versions of the Stendhal reaction (syncope) that could be used in experimental ways? Send ideas and proposals to kunze767@gmail.com.

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