

Who is your favorite painter, sculptor or visual artist?

Caravaggio, Michelangelo Buonarroti, and Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Well, hey, I live in Rome!)

Who is your favorite writer or poet?

Dante

Who is your favorite musician or composer?

Difficult to pick one: I love Franz Liszt and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerts, Puccini's Tosca, Verdi's Aida, Mozart's Requiem. And everything by David Bowie.

What is your favorite quality in an art piece?

I guess it should produce both recognition and friction, both master the rules of the craft, and then bend them. Without the former there is no fusion, or Horizontverschmelzung, in Gadamer's metaphor for hermeneutics; without the latter the piece becomes uninteresting.

What is your primary background?

Training in intellectual history (PhD).

Why are you interested in neuroesthetics?

I'm interested in interpretation, the essence of human condition.

If you were not yourself, who would you be?

Perhaps a fish in the Mediterranean Sea. I like swimming, and I love the Mediterranean.

Do you consider yourself an artist?

Goodness, no.

What is your favorite color?

Green

What has been the most significant contribution to the field of neuroesthetics in the past 20 years?

I am in no position to say, I'm afraid.

What has been the most significant contribution to the field of neuroesthetics in history?

For sheer mind-boggling influence, I'd say Plato.

How will neuroesthetics look like in 50 years?

I have no idea. I hope it will be open, towards the humanities and the arts in particular.

What is your present state of mind?

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What is your favorite motto?

Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto

3 extra questions related to the International Conference on Neuroesthetics

What did you enjoy the most at the 11th International Conference on Neuroesthetics?

The multidisciplinary aspect, definitely. And great people.

What would be your dream overarching theme for the next international Conference on Neuroesthetics?

A thematic focus on the cultural and historical grounding of (aesthetical) cognition and on how humanities and neuroscience might learn from each other. Also, I'd like a little more on gender. And ethical implications.

What do you think of joint presentations (multidisciplinary) for the next International Conference on Neuroesthetics?

Difficult, but decidedly interesting.

This is part of a series of posts on the 11th International Conference on Neuroesthetics (September 2014).

Line answered the Proust Questionnaire on Neuroesthetique.