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http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal\_article/kaag-john-j-2015-lot-beautiful-pragmatism-and-aesthetic-ideal s, 16.11.2025.

**Type:** Article in Journal

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**Title:** The Lot of the Beautiful: Pragmatism and Aesthetic Ideals

**Year:** 2015

**Journal:** British Journal for the History of Philosophy

Volume: 23 Issue: 4

**Pages:** 779-801

**Keywords:** Aesthetics, Esthetics, Kant, Friedrich Schiller, Idealism

Abstract: This article focuses on the intimate relationship between German aesthetic

theory, particularly the philosophies of Kant and Schiller, and the pragmatic tradition of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I argue that many aspects of Kantian aesthetic theory – his development of reflective judgement, genius, and common sense – are reflected in the thinking of C. S. Peirce. I conclude, however, that such a comparison risks selling short the way that German idealism influenced American thinkers and instead suggest that it is more fruitful to concentrate on 'aesthetic experience'. I argue that attending to the aesthetic dimensions of experience might re-orient contemporary approaches to pragmatism that continue to focus on the way that pragmatism

might intervene in debates in epistemology and philosophy of language.

**ISSN:** 09608788

**DOI:** 10.1080/09608788.2014.977844

Language: English