

Preface

Our aesthetic agency for beauty and emotion is one of the most celebrated bastions of humanity. If machines could understand and affect our perceptions of beauty and happiness, they could touch people's lives in fantastic new ways. Drawing variously from work in diverse fields such as psychology, cognitive science, and philosophy, recent applications of artificial intelligence have begun their foray into the computation of, inter alia, art, music, poetry, and affect. Both the theory and praxis of aesthetics by computational means are seeing rapid advances, and the time is ripe for thematic integration. Hence, this workshop will bring together AI theorists and practitioners across various realms in study and celebration of its central thematic, COMPUTATIONAL AESTHETICS.

This volume contains papers accepted for presentation at the AAAI 2006 Workshop on "Computational Aesthetics: Artificial Intelligence Approaches to Beauty and Happiness". The event took place on July 16, 2006, in Boston, immediately preceding the AAAI 2006 conference. We issued calls for both regular and short, late-breaking papers. After careful review by our program committee, nine regular papers and ten short papers were selected for presentation. We were truly impressed by the high quality of the papers received, and of the reviews provided by all the members of the program committee, particularly since deadlines were very tight. All of the committee members provided timely and thoughtful reviews, and the papers that appear have certainly benefited from that expert feedback.

To break from tradition, we will not directly narrate the thematics which emerged from the papers in this volume. Rather, apropos the computability of the approach to aesthetics herein, we present to you some food for thought – a list of the most significant words mined from this volume.

affective	kinetic	laughter	firings
suspense	story	fabula	rum
knight	inhabitant	abductive	commonsense
narrative	color	recommender	headline
chess	animation	jaguar	children
emotional	interactive	semantic	warmth
aesthetic	idea	poetic	beautiful

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