

# Special Issue

## Autonomy in Art

### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear colleagues, There have been substantial debates about the relationship of art to society over the last 200 years. The development of socially engaged arts practices in the 19th and 20th century from Arts and Crafts to Bauhaus to contemporary participatory arts has been central to notions of cultural value, engagement, participation and democratic inclusivity. Yet there are some problematic aspects to these debates and practices including the instrumentalisation of art to progressive and indeed totalitarian regimes, the privileging of process over product and a suspicion towards what we might call autonomous art. This Special Issue of *Arts* aims to explore this notion of autonomy across all art forms and politics and the ways that we might both reassert and critique the autonomy of art from social purpose; to paraphrase Adorno, perhaps the social function of art is not to have a social function. We welcome papers that address these key debates and critiques.

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### Guest Editor

Dr. Martyn Hudson

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2023)



## Arts

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## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Arts* welcomes scholarly contributions that address fundamental issues in the arts, broadly conceived, from any meaningful perspective—theoretical, historical, interdisciplinary, and global. Submissions are expeditiously and rigorously reviewed by peers, in order to insure the highest scholarly standards. Because *Arts* is an online journal, articles reach their desired audiences more quickly and reliably than its print media peers. The future is digital, and *Arts* combines the stringent scholarly standards of traditional journals with the easy accessibility afforded by digitalization.

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### Editor-in-Chief

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 37.3 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 6.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).