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ART AND MORALITY

R. W. BEARDSMORE

Lecturer in Philosophy, University College, Bangor

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To Anna

Contents

	<i>Editor's Foreword</i>	ix
	<i>Preface</i>	x
1	Introduction	i
2	Moralism	6
3	Autonomism	22
4	Art and Society	38
5	Art and Understanding	53
	<i>Bibliography</i>	76

Editor's Foreword

In this monograph Mr Beardsmore first identifies and criticises two views of the relationship between art and morality, which he identifies respectively as moralism and autonomism. Moralism is, crudely stated, the belief that the point of art is to teach morality; autonomism, the belief that art has nothing whatever to do with morality. Both points of view are, according to the author of this study, mistaken in their desire to give a simple account of the relationship between art and morality. To consider this relationship, he thinks, is not to consider one question but a collection of problems which are of central importance for both ethics and aesthetics. With a wealth of illustration, Mr Beardsmore brings out what he takes these problems, and their solutions, to be. In the last part of his study he develops his view that art can give men an understanding which makes their moral judgements more sensitive and intelligent.

W. D. HUDSON

University of Exeter

Preface

I should like to express my gratitude to Mr H. O. Mounce of University College, Swansea, and to my colleague, Mr M. D. Cohen, both of whom read this essay in manuscript and suggested many improvements, and to my wife, Pamela, who read the proofs.

R.W.B.

*University College of North Wales,
Bangor
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