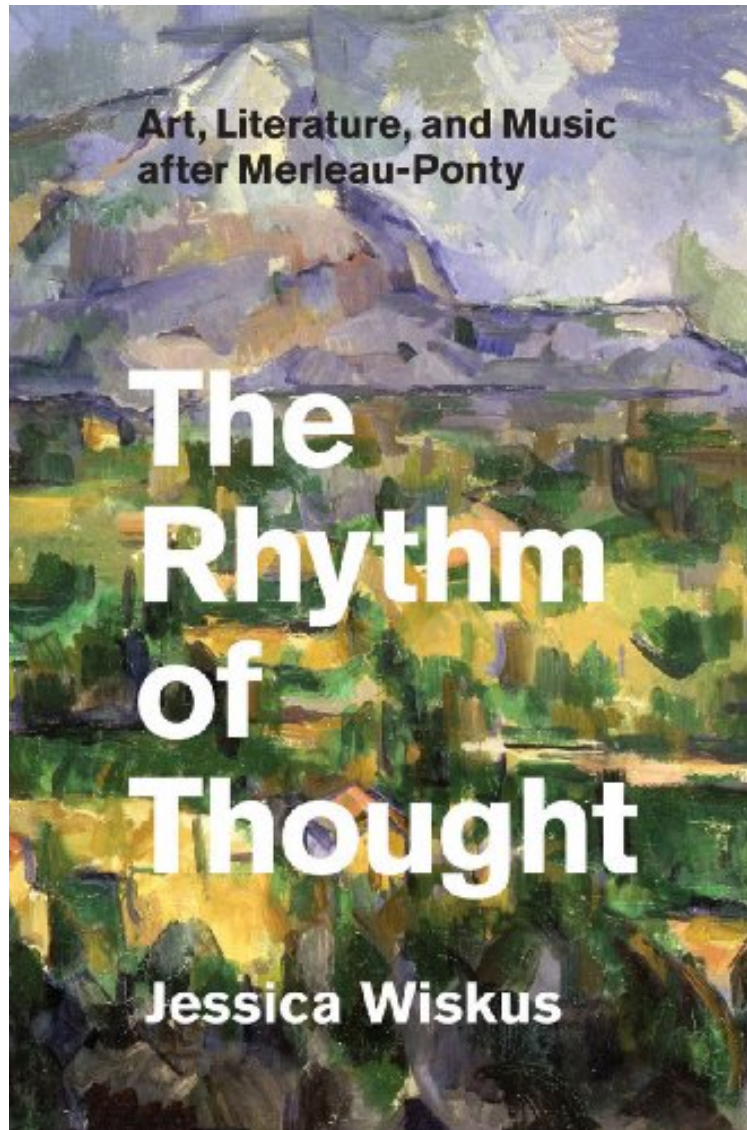


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The Rhythm of Thought: Art, Literature, and Music after Merleau-Ponty

Jessica Wiskus

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Jessica Wiskus : The Rhythm of Thought: Art, Literature, and Music after Merleau-Ponty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rhythm of Thought: Art, Literature, and Music after Merleau-Ponty:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Speaking of BeingBy Thomas G. Lamson Wiskus uses the late work of Merleau-Ponty and the great French artists of the turn of the 20th century to show demonstrate that urge to create is at root the art of Being enacting itself.4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Balancing Science With Other

Modes of Knowing By Robert Greenway For me, studying, expanding, and writing about ecopsychology, this book is a treasure. Though it is painfully complex at times, and one must love music and philosophy to "get it", it can serve as a primer to balance the current hegemony of science with an ancient and avant garde Mode of Knowing that reveals aspects of the human-nature relationship found nowhere else. If you've long suspected that music is indeed a learning and discovery experience, this could be a great source. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rhythm in the Key of Merleau-Ponty By StreetlightReader Philosophy has long had an association with 'deep thought'. Only rarely, however, has thought of depth itself been taken up as a theme in its own regard. To those of us lucky enough to stumble upon Jessica Wiskus's new book however, it's precisely the fathoms of thought that are here plumbed in a manner equal to the grandeur long promised by philosophy. Although taking the phenomenology of Maurice Merleau-Ponty as its point of departure, *The Rhythm of Thought* extends itself beyond mere exposition, inventing its own plane of thought and bringing concepts to life through art, literature and music in as vivid a manner as one could dare to hope for. Through her encounters with the art of Cezanne, the compositions of Debussy, and the literary creations of Proust, Wiskus shows how depth - the depth of time as memory and promise, the depth of space as voluminousness and movement - plays an integral role in our being-with-the-world. Space, no longer a flat expanse set out in front of us in geometric smoothness, and time, no longer a punctuated instant deprived of its own dimensionality, are both here wrought in their 'thickness'; and latency - are given 'flesh', or rather - rhythm. Taking up Merleau-Ponty's rethinking of 'essences' as not merely idealisations that exist outside of space and time, Wiskus shows exactly what it would mean to speak of a 'carnal essence', an essence as much sensate as ideal, one 'of' the world and not 'beyond it'. No doubt it's being slightly elliptic here, but precisely one of the strengths of Wiskus's writing is the way in which it stages these abstractions in the context of brilliantly illuminated discussions of artistic practice. Turning to Cezanne's use of line and color, Debussy's invocations of silence, and Proust's repetition of literary motifs, Wiskus makes concrete the often obscure and poetically roving ideas of Merleau-Ponty. Still, as I said before, this isn't so much a book 'about' Merleau-Ponty than it is a book conducted in the Merleau-Pontyan key. In the chapters on Debussy in particular, Wiskus brings to bear her considerable technical musical knowledge in order to extend the very few scattered remarks that Merleau-Ponty made on music in his lifetime. Quite simply, as a work of creativity, depth, and clarity, *The Rhythm of Thought* is a triumph of philosophical writing.

Between present and past, visible and invisible, and sensation and idea, there is resonance; so philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty argued and so Jessica Wiskus explores in *The Rhythm of Thought*. Holding the poetry of Stéphane Mallarmé, the paintings of Paul Cezanne, the prose of Marcel Proust, and the music of Claude Debussy under Merleau-Ponty's phenomenological light, she offers innovative interpretations of some of these artists' masterworks, in turn articulating a new perspective on Merleau-Ponty's philosophy.

Wiskus sets forth stimulating ideas with considerable attraction for readers.