

Honors Colloquium, Spring 2023

Form and Splendor: Nature and Spirit in the Arts – Dr. van Versendaal

Pairing the most important philosophical accounts of beauty with representative works of painting and music from antiquity to our present age, we will attend to how beauty comes to expression precisely *in* the artwork's embodied structure. This task will involve examining the disciplined technique of the artist as it is revealed in the work that incarnates his idea. Beyond this focus on the integrity of the artwork and the practice of making, our larger effort will be to delight in the perception of art more fruitfully, and also to speak about this experience of beauty more meaningfully.

As we become acquainted with an array of artistic styles in several genres, we'll gradually begin to ask larger order questions:

- Why does the human person have a desire to make something in the first place? What does it have to do with his life in the flesh? What is the point of art?
- Does art imitate the beauty of nature or does it express the spirit (mind and heart) of the artist? If both, how are these related?
- How do painting and music differently represent reality?