

**Professor Jesús Aguilar's submitted an award winning paper in Philosophy from his course Art and Intention to Caitlin O'Donnell.**

One of the most unsettling experiences related to art occurs whenever we find ourselves appreciating an artwork that possesses a morally defective content. Whenever this happens, we seem to be torn apart between the demands of art and aesthetics and the demands of morality. How can it be possible, we ask, that the very same object is capable of generating this double and apparently antithetical response? That is, how can it be possible that the very same artwork is artistically great and yet sometimes morally despicable?

Caitlin O'Donnell has written an outstanding philosophical paper where she examines the nature of this unsettling experience and its place in our understanding of artworks. Among other things, in her paper she articulates a challenging proposal based on the idea that not only are such disturbing artworks fascinating but that the source of their fascination can be traced to a well established aesthetic property known as the sublime. If this proposal is correct, the world of art will always contain artworks that attain their aesthetic merit by triggering in their spectators a sense of the sublime often through the use of immoral contents.

As we can see, this is a paper full with interesting and profound ideas about a very important subject. Let me then congratulate Caitlin for having accomplished this difficult feat in such a successful and inspiring way.