

Edward A. Vessel, PhD

eessel@ccny.cuny.edu

<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/profiles/edward-vessel>

<http://edvessel.com>

Department of Psychology
The City College of New York (CCNY)
160 Convent Ave., NAC 7/120
New York, NY 10031
+1 212.650.7150

April, 2024

Academic Employment

- 8/2023 - **Eugene Surowitz Assistant Professor**, Department of Psychology, City College of New York and the CUNY Graduate Center, The City University of New York
- 2016 - 2023 **Senior Research Scientist**, Department of Neuroscience, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 2014 - 2015 **Full Research Scientist**, Center for Brain Imaging, New York University
- 2009 - 2014 **Assistant Research Scientist**, Center for Brain Imaging, New York University
- 2011 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Psychology, New York University
- 2008 - 2009 **Research Consultant**, Department of Psychology and Center for Neural Science, New York University (w/ Denis Pelli and Nava Rubin)
- 2007 - 2008 **Adjunct Lecturer**, Departments of Psychology and English, New York University
- 2004 - 2007 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Center for Neural Science, New York University (w/ Nava Rubin)

Education

- 1997 - 2004 **The University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
PhD in Neuroscience (with Irving Biederman)
- 1993 - 1997 **The Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD
BA in Cognitive Science with Honors (thesis with Paul Smolensky, Karen Neander)

Research Grants and Contracts

- 2024 *pending* **PI**, National Science Foundation
Developing personalized machine vision models to test how visual expectations affect responses to art and design
- 2024-2025 **PI**, PSC-CUNY Research Award
Developing personalized machine vision models to test how visual expectations affect responses to art and design
- 2022 **PI**, Research Sponsorship from Google Arts and Culture
To study the brain mechanisms through which self-relevant visual art positively impacts emotion and cognition
- 2013 - 2015 **PI**, NNJ13HF11P National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Sensory stimulation augmentation tools for long duration exploration spaceflight
- 2014 - 2016 **Co-I**, NYU Global Institute for Advanced Studies (PI: Gabrielle Starr)
Beauty and Beyond Research Institute

2011 - 2014 **Co-I**, NYU University Research Challenge Fund (PI: Gabrielle Starr)
Mapping the aesthetic brain: the neural topography of domain-general visual aesthetics

Honors and Awards

2024 **Faculty Travel Award**, CUNY Academy
 2019 **Keynote Speaker**, Visual Properties Defining Visual Preference conference
 2014 **Banquet Speaker**, Human Vision and Electronic Imaging conference
 2013 **Panelist**, World Science Festival
 2003 - 2006 **Postdoctoral NRSA fellowship** (NYU Center for Neural Science, NEI)
 2001 - 2003 **Predoctoral NRSA Traineeship**, USC Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience Training Grant
 2001 **Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellowship**, Dartmouth

Teaching Experience

Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts (CCNY Psychology; Master's)
Seminar course covering broad topics in the psychology of aesthetics and creativity. Spring 2024.

Mind, Brain and Experience (CCNY Psychology; undergraduate)
Biopsychology lecture course. Fall 2023 (online), Spring 2024.

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Lab (NYU Psychology; graduate)
Lab course for doctoral students on fMRI collection and analysis with David Heeger & Pablo Velasco. 2011, 2013, 2015.

Neuroaesthetics (Goethe University, Frankfurt; graduate)
Seminar course covering broad topics in the psychology and neuroscience of aesthetics. Winter Semester 2020/21.

Neural Aesthetics (NYU Depts. of Psychology & English; graduate)
Seminar course co-taught with Gabrielle Starr on broad topics from perception to neuroaesthetics. 2007.

Research Methods: Experiments in Beauty (NYU Psychology; undergraduate)
Advanced seminar course teaching research methods using experiments on empirical aesthetics topics. 2011.

Cognitive Psychology (NYU Psychology; undergraduate)
Lecture course for psychology majors. 2007.

Perception (NYU Psychology; undergraduate)
Core undergraduate course, with Denis Pelli. 2007.

Labs in MRI and fMRI (NYU Psychology, Center for Neural Science; graduate and undergraduate)
Multi-session lab modules emphasizing signal properties and data analysis, taught as part of Lab in Neural Science II (graduate) 2010 - 2015; Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience (graduate) 2010 - 2015; Behavioral Integrative Neuroscience (undergraduate) 2008 - 2015

Brain Imaging Workshops.

2018 Structural MRI Workshop, Max Planck Inst. for Empirical Aesthetics
 2016 Introductory fMRI Workshop, Max Planck Inst. for Empirical Aesthetics
 2009 - 2015 CBI Technique and Analysis Workshops: Intro fMRI, Diffusion Imaging, Multi-Voxel Pattern Analysis, Functional Connectivity, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation.

Guest Lectures on Psychology and Neuroscience of Aesthetics, fMRI

Harvard undergraduate seminar on Psychology of Aesthetics, 2015 – '20, '23; Goethe U. Frankfurt graduate seminar on Individual Differences, 2020; Goethe U. undergraduate seminar on Empirical Aesthetics, 2019; Goldsmiths U. London seminar, 2018; NYU Psychology, Center for Neural Science, and School of Continuing Education graduate and undergraduate courses, 2006-2007.

Teaching Assistant (U. Southern California, Biology; undergraduate) for Topics in Neuroscience, 2000 and Introductory Biology, 1998.

Professional Service

2016 - Present Board of Directors, International Association for Empirical Aesthetics
 2021 - 2022 Co-Organizer, MPIEA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Journal Club
 2022 Session chair, XXVII Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics.
 2021 Symposium chair and organizer, "Advancing Neuroaesthetics: Neuroimaging of dynamic, naturalistic aesthetic experiences", XXVI Conference of the International Association for Empirical Aesthetics.
 2019 - 2021 Jury member, *INHABIT* artist residency, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics
 2020 Organizer, "Neuroaesthetics Social" event at Cognitive Neurosciences Society (CNS)
 2020 Co-Organizer, "Dance / Research" symposium, Max Planck Inst. Empirical Aesthetics
 2019 Organizer, "6 Decades of Visual Cognition: From Geons to Perceptual Pleasure" a Symposium in Honor of Irving Biederman
 2019 Session chair & abstract reviewer, European Conference on Visual Perception (ECPV)
 2019 Session chair & abstract reviewer, Visual Science of Art (VSAC) conference
 2019 Organizer, "Aesthetics Social" Satellite Event at Vision Sciences Society (VSS)
 2019 Judge, German National Neuroscience Olympiad
 2017 – 2018 Chair of Organizing Committee, Symposium on Visual Neuroaesthetics, MPIEA
 2017 Organizing Committee and Session Chair, International Conference on Mobile Brain-Body Imaging and the Neuroscience of Art, Innovation and Creativity. Valencia, Spain
 2014 Organizer, Symposium on the Default Mode Network in Aesthetics and Creativity, Columbia Italian Academy and NYU College of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY
 2009 - 2015 Organizer, seminar series for the NYU Center for Brain Imaging

Reviewer for: Brain Research; Cognition; Cognition & Emotion; Cortex; Current Biology; Current Directions in Psychological Science; Emotion; Empirical Studies of the Arts; European Journal of Neuroscience; Frontiers in Human Neuroscience; Frontiers in Psychology; Human Brain Mapping; Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience; Journal of Experimental Psychology, General; Journal of Experimental Psychology, Human Perception and Performance; Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Journal of Vision; Music Perception; Neuropsychologia; Neuroscience Letters; NPJ Microgravity; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts; Psychological Science; Perception; PLoS ONE; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review; Scientific Reports; Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience; IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics & Security; Wires

Editorial board reviewer for *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*.

Editor for *PeerJ* (2019-2023)

Guest editor for special issue of *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, "How variable, stable, or universal are aesthetic preferences?" (2016)

Mentoring & Research Advising

2024 - Present Aishwarya Gurung, CUNY Grad Ctr, Cognitive Neuroscience Master's Thesis
 2024 - Present Aubrey Valdez, CCNY, Psychology Master's Thesis
 2022 - Present Delaram Farzanfar, U. Toronto, Visiting PhD (advisor: Norman Farb)

2023 - Present	Carla Frenzel, Goethe University Master's Thesis, Computational Neurosci
2022 - Present	Adam Reynolds, IMT Lucca, Visiting PhD, Erasmus+ Program; committee member (advisor: Emiliano Ricciardi)
2022 - Present	Maximos Pantelidakis, U. Ioannina, Diploma (Master's) Thesis, Erasmus+ Program
2021 - Present	Scherien Müller, University of Cologne, Psychology Master's Thesis
2021 - Present	Anna Smith, Duke U., Major Area Paper Committee (advisor: Felipe De Brigard)
2017 - Present	Dominik Welke, PhD student
2020 - 2022	Ayşe Ilkay Isik, postdoctoral fellow
2021	Marco Münzberg, Goethe University bachelors honors thesis
2018 - 2021	Sarah Koldehoff, Goethe University bachelors honors thesis
2016 - 2020	Ayşe Ilkay Isik, PhD student
2019 - 2020	Laura Pasqualette, Goethe University Psychology Master's Thesis
2020	Hanna Negami, U. Waterloo, Dissertation Committee (advisor: Colin Ellard)
2015 - 2017	Amy Belfi, postdoctoral fellow
2015 - 2016	Ailin Tomio: NYU Psychology Masters Thesis
2014 - 2015	Isaac Purton: NYU Psychology Masters Thesis
2014 - 2015	Eda Aksoy: NYU Psychology Masters Thesis
2014 - 2015	Michael Masucci: NYU Psychology Masters Thesis
2013 - 2014	Natalia Maurer. NYU Psychology Masters Thesis
2013 - 2014	Alison Isaacs: Undergraduate Honors Thesis
2013	Claire Mitchell: NYU Interactive Technology Program Masters
2012	Tyra Lindstrom. Undergraduate Research Methods
2012	Jonathan Stahl, NYU Gallatin Senior Colloquium
2011	Frank Camps-Febrer. Masters in Neuroscience, City University of New York
2009	Justin Kung, NYU Deans Undergraduate Research Fund
2009	Gabrielle Gutierrez, NYU Summer Undergraduate Research Program

Publications

Underlined authors are current or former trainees (postdoctoral, graduate, undergraduate, and research assistants)

- 1) Bignardi, G., Smit, D.J., **Vessel, E.A.**, Trupp, M.D., Ticini, L.F., Fisher, S.E., Polderman, T.J.C. (2024). Genetic effects on variability in visual aesthetic evaluations are partially shared across visual domains. *Communications Biology* 7(55). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-023-05710-4>
- 2) **Vessel, E.A.**, Pasqualette, L., Uran, C., Koldehoff, S., Vinck, M. (2023). Self-relevance predicts the aesthetic appeal of real and synthetic artworks generated via neural style transfer. *Psychological Science*, 34(9), 1007-1023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976231188107>
- 3) Trupp, M.D., Bignardi, G., Specker, E., **Vessel, E.A.**, Pelowski, M. (2023). Who benefits from art viewing, and how: the role of pleasure, meaningfulness, and trait aesthetic responsiveness in computer-based art interventions for well-being. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 145, 107764. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2023.107764>
- 4) Golbabaie, S., Christensen, J.F., **Vessel, E.A.**, Kazemian, N., Borhani, K. (2022). The Aesthetic Responsiveness Assessment (AReA) in Farsi Language: A scale validation and cultural adaptation study. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/aca0000532>
- 5) Welke, D., **Vessel, E.A.** (2022). Naturalistic viewing conditions increase task engagement and aesthetic preference but have only minimal impact on EEG quality. *Neuroimage*, 119218. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2022.119218>

- 6) Strijbosch, W., **Vessel, E.A.**, Welke, D., Mitas, O., Gelissen, J., Bastiaansen, M. (2022). On the neuronal dynamics of aesthetic experience: Evidence from electroencephalographic oscillatory dynamics. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 34(2). https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn_a_01812
- 7) Isik, I., **Vessel, E.A.** (2021). From visual perception to aesthetic appeal: Brain responses to aesthetically appealing natural landscape movies. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 15, 676032. <https://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2021.676032>
- 8) Welke, D.W., Purton, I., **Vessel, E.A.** (2021). Inspired by art: Higher aesthetic appeal elicits increased felt inspiration in a creative writing task. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 17(3), 261-277. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/aca0000393>
- 9) Schlotz, W., Wallot, S. Omigie, D., Masucci, M.D., Hoelzmann, S.C., **Vessel, E.A.** (2020). The Aesthetic Responsiveness Assessment (AReA): A screening tool to assess individual differences in responsiveness to art in English and German. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 15(4), 682-696. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/aca0000348>
- 10) Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.** (2019). Continuous ratings of movie watching reveal idiosyncratic dynamics of aesthetic enjoyment. *PLoS ONE* 14(10), e0223896. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223896>
- 11) **Vessel, E.A.**, Isik, A.I., Belfi, A.M., Stahl, J.L., Starr, G.G. (2019). The default-mode network represents aesthetic appeal that generalizes across visual domains. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Sep 2019, 201902650, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1902650116>
- 12) **Vessel, E.A.***, Belfi, A.M.*, Brielmann, A., Isik, A.I., Chatterjee, A., Leder, H., Pelli, D.G., Starr, G.G. (2019). Dynamics of aesthetic experience are reflected in the default-mode network. *NeuroImage*, 188, 584-597. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/J.NEUROIMAGE.2018.12.017> (* shared first authorship)
- 13) Belfi, A. M., Kasdan, A., Rowland, J., **Vessel, E. A.**, Starr, G. G., & Poeppel, D. (2018). Rapid timing of musical aesthetic judgments. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 147(10), 1531-1543. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/xge0000474>
- 14) **Vessel, E.A.**, Maurer, N.M., Denker, A.H., Starr, G.G. (2018). Stronger shared taste for natural aesthetic domains than for artifacts of human culture. *Cognition*, 179, 121-131. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2018.06.009>
- 15) Belfi, A. M., **Vessel, E. A.**, & Starr, G. G. (2018). Individual ratings of vividness predict aesthetic appeal in poetry. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 12(3), 341-350. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/aca0000153>
- 16) **Vessel, E.A.**, Biederman, I., Subramaniam, S., Greene, M.R. (2016). Effective signaling of surface boundaries by L-vertices reflect the consistency of their contrast in natural images. *Journal of Vision*, 16(9): 15, 1-10, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1167/16.9.15>
- 17) **Vessel, E.A.**, Stahl, J., Maurer, N., Denker, A., Starr, G.G. (2014). Personalized visual aesthetics. *Proc. SPIE 9014, Human Vision and Electronic Imaging XIX*, 90140S, 1-8. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1117/12.2043126>
- 18) **Vessel, E.A.**, Starr, G.G., Rubin, N. (2013). Art reaches within: aesthetic experience, the self and the default-mode network. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 7:258, <https://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2013.00258>
- 19) **Vessel, E.A.**, Starr, G.G., Rubin, N. (2012). The brain on art: Intense aesthetic experience activates the default mode network. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 6:66, <https://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2012.00066>
- 20) **Vessel, E.A.**, & Rubin, N. (2010). Beauty and the beholder: Highly individual taste for abstract, but not real-world images. *Journal of Vision*, 10(2): 18, 1-14, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1167/10.2.18>

- 21) Yue, X, **Vessel, E.A.**, & Biederman, I. (2007). The neural basis of scene preferences. *NeuroReport*, 16(6), 525-529. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1097/WNR.0b013e328091c1f9>
- 22) Biederman, I. & **Vessel, E.A.** (2006). Perceptual pleasure and the brain. *American Scientist*, 94, 249-255. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1511/2006.59.247>

Preprints / Under Review

- 1) Conwell, C., Graham, D. & **Vessel, E. A.** (under review). The perceptual primacy of feeling: Affectless machine vision models explain a majority of variance in human affect and aesthetics. *PsyArXiv preprint*: <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/5wg4s>
- 2) Christensen, J.F., Muralikrishnan, R., Münzberg, M., Castaño-Manías, B., Khorsandi, S., **Vessel, E.A.** (under review) Creativity Booster: 5-minute Finger Actions as Creative Incubation? *Manuscript under review*.

Chapters

- 1) **Vessel, E.A.**, Ishizu, T., Bignardi, G. (2022). Neural correlates of visual aesthetic appeal. In M. Skov & M. Nadal (Ed.). *Routledge Intl Handbook of Neuroaesthetics*. London: Routledge. Pp. 103-133. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003008675-7/neural-correlates-visual-aesthetic-appeal-edward-vessel-tomohiro-ishizu-giacomo-bignardi>
- 2) **Vessel, E.A.**, Starr, G.S. (2022). Imaging the subjective. In A. Chatterjee & E. Cardillo (Ed.). *Brain, Beauty, and Art: Essays Bringing Neuroaesthetics Into Focus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197513620.003.0024>
- 3) **Vessel, E.A.**, Yue, X., Biederman, I. (2022). Scene preferences, aesthetic appeal and curiosity: revisiting the neurobiology of the infovore. In A. Chatterjee & E. Cardillo (Ed.). *Brain, Beauty, and Art: Essays Bringing Neuroaesthetics Into Focus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197513620.003.0013>
- 4) **Vessel, E.A.** (2021). Neuroaesthetics. In: Della Sala, S. (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Neuroscience, 2nd Ed.*, vol 3. Elsevier. Pp. 661-670. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-809324-5.24104-7>

Technical Reports

- 1) **Vessel, E.A.**, Russo S. (2015). Effects of reduced sensory stimulation and assessment of countermeasures for sensory stimulation augmentation: A Report for NASA Behavioral Health and Performance Research: Sensory Stimulation Augmentation Tools for Long Duration Spaceflight (NASA/TM-2015-218576). NASA-Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX. <https://osf.io/mvjxd>
- 2) **Vessel, E.A.** (2012) Physiological Noise Correction: Matlab Implementation of RETROICOR for data acquired using Biopac/Acqknowledge. Technical report for New York University Center for Brain Imaging.
- 3) **Vessel, E.A.** (2010) Inter-Modal Registration Using the CBI Calibration Scan. Technical report for New York University Center for Brain Imaging.
- 4) **Vessel, E.A.** (2010) Optimizing TE for 2x2x2 BOLD Imaging. Technical report for New York University Center for Brain Imaging.
- 5) **Vessel, E.A.** (2010) Combining Data Across Multiple Coils: Experimental Comparison of Methods. Technical report for New York University Center for Brain Imaging.

- 6) **Vessel, E.A.** (2009) Comparison of Nova 8-Channel and 4-Channel Surface Coils: Signal-to-Noise Tests. Technical report for New York University Center for Brain Imaging.
- 7) **Vessel, E.A.** (2007) Tobii Eyetracker Matlab Interface. Technical Report.

Invited Talks (2013 – present)

- 2024 Seminar, Center for Developmental Neuroscience, College of Staten Island, New York, NY, April 16.
- 2024 Colloquium, CCNY Biology Department, New York, NY, April 15.
- 2024 Colloquium, CUNY Neuroscience Collaborative at the Graduate Center, New York, NY, February 9.
- 2024 Departmental Seminar, CCNY Biomedical Engineering, New York, NY, February 7.
- 2023 Intentional Spaces Summit, The Johns Hopkins University, November 9-10.
- 2023 Colloquium, Comparative and Cognitive Psychology Program at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, September 29.
- 2023 Arts, Health and Climate Round Table, Jameel Arts & Health Lab, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, September 19.
- 2023 Online colloquium, Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, May 1.
- 2023 Friedman Brain Institute, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, March 1.
- 2023 Dept. of Humanities and Social Science, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ, February 7.
- 2022 Workshop on Aesthetic Values and Decision-Making in the Brain, Paris, October 19-21.
- 2022 Colloquium, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany, June 22.
- 2022 "Mind the Gap? Neuroaesthetics between Neuroscience and the Humanities," Heidelberg Institute for the Study of Culture, Stuttgart, Germany, June 9-11.
- 2021 Laboratory of Sensorimotor Research, National Eye Institute, Bethesda, MD, December 8. "From 'What we See' to 'What we Like'."
- 2021 MUMBLE Research Seminar, Center for Logic, Language and Cognition, University of Turin, Turin, Italy. November 9.
- 2021 ";-) – Ästhetik im digitalen Raum," graduate conference at Cusanuswerk, Heidelberg, Germany, October 6-10.
- 2020 Virtual panel on Neuroaesthetics, Columbia Neuroscience Society, Columbia University, November 13.
- 2020 Online conference: Artistic Knowledge and the Sonic, MPI for Empirical Aesthetics, November 7.
- 2020 Science, the Arts and Possibilities in Perception Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, March 16-17. "Art reaches within: empirical aesthetics and the brain's default-mode network." POSTPONED
- 2020 Bristol Vision Institute, Bristol, UK, February 28. "Visual aesthetics and the brain's default-mode network."
- 2020 Royal Holloway U. London, Egham, UK, February 26. "The challenge of aesthetic appeal: individual variability versus cognitive universality."
- 2020 Symposium of "Dance / Research," Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, January 30. "Tracking aesthetic responses to dance."
- 2019 The Artfull Brain Lecture Series, Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism, Texas Tech University, October 28. "Empirical neuroaesthetics and the brain's default-mode network."
- 2019 U. California, Los Angeles, October 23. "Understanding Aesthetic Experiences."
- 2019 Symposium on "Why do we like what we see?" European Conference on Visual Perception, Leuven, Belgium, August 27. "From 'being moved' to moving images: dynamics of visual aesthetic experience and the brain's default-mode network."

- 2019 Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany, July 10. "Neuroaesthetics: Beauty in the brain of the beholder."
- 2019 Keynote, Visual Properties Defining Visual Preference, Hope Liverpool University, Liverpool, UK, June 14-15. "Embracing an interactionist view of aesthetic experience."
- 2019 Breaking Glass II – The Virtual Image, Städelschule Architecture, Frankfurt, Germany, May 4. "Understanding aesthetic experiences."
- 2019 Brain on Screen speaker series, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt, Germany, March 5. "From 'being moved' to moving images: dynamics of visual aesthetic experience and the brain's default-mode network."
- 2018 Conference on Image Perception and the Future Image, Aby Warburg Haus, Hamburg, Germany, November 30. "Art reaches within: aesthetic experience and the brain's default-mode network."
- 2018 Goldsmiths, U. London, London, UK, November 15. Seminar on "The role of the default-mode network in visual aesthetic experiences."
- 2018 Association of Neuroaesthetics "Borderlands" 10-year anniversary event, Berlin, Germany, September 28.
- 2018 U. Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany, June 12. "Understanding Aesthetics."
- 2018 Visual Neuroaesthetics Symposium, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, April 5, 2018. "The role of the default-mode network in visual aesthetic experiences."
- 2017 International Conference on Mobile Brain-Body Imaging and the Neuroscience of Art, Innovation and Creativity, Valencia, Spain, September 13.
- 2017 U. Vienna, Vienna, Austria, April 27.
- 2016 Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, TX, Oct. 6. Krost Symposium on "Neurocognition of Music and Art."
- 2016 Session on Individual Differences and Genre, International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, Vienna, Austria, August 2016. "Behavioral and Neural Evidence for both Domain-General and Domain-Specific Aesthetic Processes."
- 2016 Session on Facial Attractiveness, International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, Vienna, Austria, August 2016. "Behavioral relevance shapes preference formation: shared attractiveness judgments for faces is higher for opposite gender faces."
- 2016 International Conference on Mobile Brain-Body Imaging and the Neuroscience of Art, Innovation and Creativity, Cancun, Mexico, July 27. "Searching for Universals Underlying Subjectively Moving Aesthetic Experiences."
- 2016 Retreat of the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Schloss Ringberg, Germany, March 21. "Exploring Network Interactions During Aesthetic Experience."
- 2015 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, Dec. 7. "Begin Moved by Art: Bridging the Gap between Lab and Museum."
- 2015 New York University, Center for Neural Science Special Undergraduate Seminar, New York, NY, Dec. 2. "Visual Arts and the Brain."
- 2015 Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, Sep. 30. "Understanding Aesthetic Experiences."
- 2015 Keynote, NYU Master's Program Research Conference, New York, NY, April 2015. "Understanding Aesthetic Experiences."
- 2015 Brainwave, The Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY, April 2015.
- 2015 "Towards the Light" with artist Leo Villareal.
- 2015 NASA HRP Workshop, Behavioral Health and Performance Element, Galveston, TX, January 2015.
- 2014 "A General Framework for Evaluating Sensory Stimulation Augmentation Tools."
- 2014 Workshop on Psychological Perspectives on Aesthetics, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, December 2014.
- 2014 "The Default Mode Network in Aesthetic Experience."
- 2014 Session on Neuroaesthetics, International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, New York, NY, August 2014.
- 2014 "Aesthetic Experience as an Integrated Brain State."

- 2014 Symposium on the Default Mode Network in Aesthetics and Creativity, Columbia Italian Academy and NYU College of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY, Feb. 7. "Art Reaches Within."
- 2014 Banquet Talk, Human Vision and Electronic Imaging, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 3. "Visual Pleasure and the Neuroscience of Aesthetics."
- 2014 Special Session on Cognition, Emotion and Aesthetics in Visual Experience, Human Vision and Electronic Imaging, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 2-6. "Personalized Visual Aesthetics."
- 2013 Haverford College, Haverford, PA, Dec. 4. "Art Reaches Within."
- 2013 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, June 2. World Science Festival. "Sunday at the Met: Art and the Mind."

Recent Conference Presentations (2019 – present)

Vessel, E.A. Formal training in a visual aesthetic domain increases shared taste in a domain-specific manner. Talk presented at the APA Division 10 Annual Meeting, Denton, TX, March 15-16, 2024.

Vessel, E.A. Inspired by art: higher aesthetic appeal elicits increased felt inspiration in a creative writing task. Talk presented at the APA Division 10 Annual Meeting, Denton, TX, March 15-16, 2024.

Vessel, E.A. From cognitive neuroscience to empirical aesthetics and back again. Talk presented at the British Association of Cognitive Neuroscience, Cardiff, Wales, Sept. 13, 2023.

Vessel, E.A. The default-mode network: From cognitive neuroscience to empirical aesthetics and back again. Talk presented at the XXVII Conference of the International Association for Empirical Aesthetics, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2022.

Vessel, E.A. Self-relevance predicts the aesthetic appeal of human-made and AI-generated artworks created via style transfer. Talk presented at the XXVII Conference of the International Association for Empirical Aesthetics, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2022.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.** Using the title effect to evoke insight with visual art. Talk presented at the XXVII Conference of the International Association for Empirical Aesthetics, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2022.

Reynolds, A., Ricciardi, E., **Vessel, E.A.** Dissociating incentive salience from aesthetic appeal. Poster presented at the XXVII Conference of the International Association for Empirical Aesthetics, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2022.

Conwell, C., Graham, D., Konkle, T., **Vessel, E.A.** Purely Perceptual Machines Robustly Predict Human Visual Arousal, Valence, and Aesthetics. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society annual meeting in St. Petersburg, FL, May 13-18, 2022.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.** Using the title effect to evoke insight with visual art. Blitz Talk presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, May 12-13, 2022.

Vessel, E.A., Pasqualetto, L., Uran, C., Koldehoff, S., Vinck, M. Self-relevance predicts the aesthetic appeal of real and synthetic artworks generated via neural style transfer. Talk presented at the Society for Neuroscience of Creativity online meeting, May 12-13, 2022.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.** Naturalistic viewing conditions increase task engagement and aesthetic preference but have only minimal impact on EEG quality. Blitz Talk and Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, April 23-26, 2022.

Vessel, E.A., Pasqualette, L., Uran, C., Koldehoff, S., Vinck, M. Self-relevance predicts the aesthetic appeal of real and synthetic artworks generated via neural style transfer. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, April 23-26, 2022.

Vessel, E.A., Pasqualette, L., Uran, C., Koldehoff, S., Vinck, M. Finding the self in visual art using 'style transfer'. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Vessel, E.A., Reymond, C., Etcoff, N. Effect of formal training on consensus of visual aesthetic appreciation. Poster presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.** Linking representations of visual features to representations of aesthetic appeal using movies of natural landscapes. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.** Relaxing experimental constraints increases engagement but has only minimal impact on EEG signal-to-noise ratio. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Conwell, C., Graham, D., **Vessel, E.A.** Beauty as 'Elemental Affect': Aesthetic appeal, more so than arousal or valence, can be near optimally predicted with linear readout from deep net feature spaces. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Strijbosch, **Vessel, E.A.**, Welke, D.W., Mitas, O., Gelissen, J., Bastiaansen, M. Aesthetic experience electrified: an event-related potential and time-frequency approach to being aesthetically moved. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Bignardi, G., Smit, D.J.A., **Vessel, E.A.**, Ticini, L.F., Trupp, M.D., Polderman, T.J.C. On the etiology of visual aesthetic evaluation of places, faces and abstract objects: A twin informative study. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Golbabaei, S., Christensen, J.F., **Vessel, E.A.**, Kazemian, N., Borhani, K. The Aesthetic Responsiveness Assessment (AReA) in Persian language: A scale validation and cultural adaptation study. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Christensen, J.F., Golestani, R., Khorsandi, S., **Vessel, E.A.**, Schmidt, E., Vartanian, M., Menninghaus, W. Cross-cultural empirical aesthetics of dance. Talk presented at the XXVI Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, September 1-3, 2021.

Vessel, E.A., Welke, D., Purton, I. Art as creative inspiration. Blitz talk presented at The Society for Neuroscience of Creativity Virtual Conference, October 22-23, 2020.

Vessel, E.A. Visual aesthetic experiences and the default-mode network. Talk presented at the American Psychological Association Virtual Annual Convention (Division 10), August 6-9, 2020.

Vessel, E.A., Welke, D., Purton, I. Art as creative inspiration. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Virtual Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2020.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.** Assessing the tradeoff between ecological validity and EEG signal quality in an aesthetic rating task. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Virtual Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2020.

Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.** fMRI of aesthetic experiences with landscape videos. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Virtual Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2020.

Vessel, E.A., Isik, A.I., Belfi, A.M., Stahl, J.L., Starr, G.G. The default-mode network represents aesthetic appeal that generalizes across visual domains. Poster presented at Society for Neuroscience conference in Chicago, IL, USA, October 19-23, 2019.

Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.**, "Being moved" by moving images: fMRI of aesthetic experiences with landscape videos. Talk presented at the European Conference on Visual Perception in Leuven, Belgium, August 25-29, 2019.

Welke, D.W., **Vessel, E.A.**, Designing an EEG paradigm for naturalistic engagement with aesthetic stimuli. Poster presented at the European Conference on Visual Perception in Leuven, Belgium, August 25-29, 2019.

Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.** "Being moved" by moving images: fMRI of aesthetic experiences with landscape videos. Talk presented at the Visual Science of Art Conference in Leuven, Belgium, August 23-25, 2019.

Welke, D., **Vessel, E.A.** Designing an EEG paradigm for naturalistic engagement with aesthetic stimuli. Talk presented at the Visual Science of Art Conference in Leuven, Belgium, August 23-25, 2019.

Vessel, E.A., Welke, D., Purton, I. Art as creative inspiration. Poster presented at the Visual Science of Art Conference in Leuven, Belgium, August 23-25, 2019.

Welke, D.W., Purton, I., **Vessel, E.A.**, The power of visual art: higher felt inspiration following aesthetically pleasing visual prompts in a creative writing task. Poster presented at the Vision Sciences Society conference in St. Pete Beach, FL, USA, May 17-22, 2019.

Isik, A.I., **Vessel, E.A.** Tracking aesthetic engagement: behavioral and brain responses to artistic landscape videos. Poster presented at the Vision Sciences Society conference in St. Pete Beach, FL, USA, May 17-22, 2019.

Vessel, E.A., Isik, A.I., Belfi, A.M., Stahl, J.L., Starr, G.G. The default-mode network represents aesthetic appeal that generalizes across visual domains. Poster presented at the Vision Sciences Society conference in St. Pete Beach, FL, USA, May 17-22, 2019.

Professional Memberships

International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, The Society for Neuroscience of Creativity, American Psychological Association Division 10 (Society for the Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts), American Psychological Association, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Vision Sciences Society, Association for Psychological Science, Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Society for Neuroscience