

Carlos Vara Sánchez: Not Quite My Rhythm: An Enactivist Approach to Aesthetic Experience
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Rhythm is a notoriously slippery concept. Aesthetic experience too. These could be some of the reasons why John Dewey's ideas on the importance of rhythm in aesthetic experience have not received much attention. However, some recent developments on cognitive science point to rhythm, entrainment, and oscillatory activity as essential to understand the interactions between body, brain, and environment through perceptual and affective aspects of cognition. Thus, taking into consideration Dewey's theory of aesthetic experience as a particularly intense type of general experience and some empirical finding, I will propose an enactivist approach –that is, non-representational, non-computational, embodied, and situated– to aesthetic experience. These will be presented as experiential episodes characterized by particular rhythmical dynamics leading to a phase entrainment between environment, brain, and body oscillations affecting agency, attention, and sense-making.