

The relationship between aesthetic and drawing preferences

Article

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	1 The Relationship between Aesthetic and Drawing Preferences
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3	

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5

6 There are suggested to be similarities between what is aesthetically preferred and artistically 7 produced; however, little research has been conducted that directly examines this relationship and its links to expertise. Here, we examined the artistic process of artists and non-artists 8 9 using geometric shapes as stimuli, investigating aesthetic (how pleasing they find the shapes) and drawing preferences (which shape they would prefer to draw out of a choice of two). We 10 11 examined the cognitive processes behind these preferences using eye-tracking methods both when viewing stimuli and when making drawing preferences. Drawing preference scores 12 increased with increasing aesthetic ratings regardless of expertise. We find gaze behaviour 13 14 when free-viewing to reflect behaviour when making a drawing preference as both artists and non-artists fixated on aesthetically preferred stimuli first, for longer and more often. Artists 15 gaze behaviour when free-viewing was also influenced by what they would prefer to draw. 16 This suggests that artists have a more fluid relationship than non-artists between images 17 18 aesthetically preferred and those preferred for drawing. Overall, we demonstrate that there is 19 a relationship between aesthetic preference and artistic preference for production, and this varies with expertise. 20

21

22 *Keywords:* aesthetic preference; drawing preference; eye movements; art expertise

23 There is argued to be an interaction between the aesthetic and artistic experiences involved in producing an artwork (Tinio, 2013). The acts of production, perception and 24 enjoyment are suggested to be integrated as the artist behind the artwork conceptualises the 25 artwork and imagines how the perceiver will interact with the final work. The artist visually 26 evaluates their work as a perceiver of the final product in order to create something they 27 believe to be aesthetically pleasing (Dewey, 1934; Zeki & Nash, 1999). Therefore the 28 cognitive processes involved in the creation of art have been suggested to be similar to the 29 perception of art (Martindale, 2001; Tinio, 2013). Empirical research largely investigates the 30 experience of the perceiver (those perceiving final works of art) with less work examining the 31 experience of the artist. The art-making process arguably differentiates art from other 32 aesthetic forms that can be aesthetically appreciated, such as products and/or objects that are 33 34 designed. The artist, their behaviour, intentions and actions are important here. Yet less emphasis in current empirical aesthetic research is put on understanding the artist and their 35 aesthetic experience during the art-making process (Tinio, 2013). 36

37 One notable attempt to understand the artistic process was put forward by Mace and Ward (2002). They developed an art-making process model from the perspective of the artist. 38 Through interviews with professional artists they aimed to understand the processes of the 39 artist during the creation of their work. They identified four phases. The first phase is artwork 40 conception, which concerns when and how ideas are initially conceived. The second idea 41 development phase follows as an original idea is adapted and modified if necessary. The third 42 stage is the actual production of the artwork. The final stage involves finishing the artwork 43 and evaluating it prior to exhibition. Sapp's (1995) model specifically focuses on the initial 44 stages of art-making and conscious decisions made. Here, they explore the processes of 45 making ideas and identify the importance of making conscious decisions during the 46 production of potential ideas. Specific focus is put on how one idea is selected amongst 47

48 others. Mace & Ward suggest that these decisions made by artists, including idea selection as 49 presented in Sapp's model, are influenced by the artist's own aesthetic experience 50 demonstrating that there is a relationship between the artists' aesthetic and art-making 51 experience.

52

53 Aesthetic and Art-making Experiences

Initial art-making stages involve making conscious decisions on what to create. 54 Within Sapp's (1995) model for art idea conception it is explained how multiple ideas of a 55 concept are developed and a process of exploring and selecting ideas occurs until one option 56 is selected to be the most significant for a final concept. However, the model does not explore 57 what influences the decisions that are made during these early stages of art-making. Mace 58 59 and Ward (2002) also present an idea selection stage where a decision is to be made on what to create and they suggest that the artists' aesthetic experiences impact upon decisions made 60 at this stage and indeed at any stage of the art-making process. They further state how 61 engaging in art-making activities can equally influence the artists' personal aesthetic 62 experience. Kay (1991) also suggests that this personal aesthetic experience is used by an 63 artist to construct ideas and aid thought processes when creating art, and that aesthetic 64 preferences, which are part of the overall aesthetic experience and are largely accepted as an 65 outcome of the aesthetic experience (Leder, Belke, Oeberst, & Augustin, 2004; Tinio, 2013), 66 help guide new art-making and other similar forms of experience. However, no empirical 67 research has directly investigated this relationship. Kozbelt (2017) further addresses how no 68 studies have directly examined how the artists' ideas and development of an artwork is 69 guided by aesthetic characteristics which impact perceiver's aesthetic experiences. 70

71 There is some empirical evidence that examines how idea selection takes place,
72 Groenendijk, Janssen, Rijlaarsdam and van den Bergh (2013) used a self-report measure to

73 gather information about adolescent students (non-artists) creative drawing activity and found 74 that very little time was spent making a decision on what to create. This may be explained by a lack of expertise leading to a failure to consider alternative ideas, thus one initial idea can 75 quickly and directly become the final artwork (Sapp, 1995). Alternatively it may be because 76 aesthetic preferences are formed in a short period of time that a quick drawing decision can 77 be made (Locher et al., 2007; Willis & Todorov, 2006). No research to date explores these 78 initial art-making decisions in more depth, however indirect evidence does show some 79 similarities between preference and production which are discussed next. 80

81

82 Aesthetic Preference and Art Production

Indirect evidence from studies of the content of productions do show similarities 83 84 between images aesthetically preferred and produced. More complex designs were created and aesthetically preferred by more creative artists, and less complex designs were created 85 and aesthetically preferred by less creative artists (Taylor & Eisenman, 1964). In addition, 86 87 images preferred for drawing were found to be dependent on the content of the stimuli to be drawn, despite prior drawing experiences. This could potentially be due to the complexity in 88 producing images, but those images preferred for drawing were also aesthetically preferred 89 (Kozbelt, Seidel, ElBassiouny, Mark & Owen, 2010; Guggenheim & Whitfield, 1989). 90 Boyatzis and Eades (1999) consider children's artistic productions, preferences and 91 92 production choices. They found that the productions created and those selected were influenced by gender stereotypical content, further showing a relationship between preference 93 and production. Furthermore, symmetry has also been found to impact art production with 94 use of symmetry in creations differing dependent on gender and age, however here it has 95 been shown that there tends to be disparities between the types of symmetry preferred and 96 those found in productions (Humphrey, 1997; Washburn & Humphrey, 2001). So, research 97

has reported similarities between preference and production, however there has been no
direct exploration of the relationship between preference and production considering those
familiar with the art-making process and those with less experience.

101

102 Influence of Artistic Expertise

There is some suggestion that stimuli preferred for creation are similar to those 103 aesthetically preferred and that this varies as a function of expertise. Individuals differ in their 104 knowledge of art and art history, and there are also distinct differences between artists and 105 non-artists regarding aesthetic experiences. Expertise influences general observation of art as 106 more experienced viewers are interested in the work itself but also in the creative process, 107 thus they consider the ideas behind the artwork and desire to understand the process and 108 109 materials used in order to create the art piece (Pitman & Hirzy, 2010; Gombrich, 1995). When observing art, gaze patterns have been analysed and differences are apparent due to 110 long term artistic training. Participants untrained in art have been found to focus more on 111 individual elements in a composition. Fixation time towards these elements, for example to 112 human and object features, supports this. More experienced artists however explore the 113 relationships between these elements; they are interested in the global image, overall 114 composition and structural features depicted (Nodine, Locher & Krupinski, 1993; Pihko et al, 115 2011; Vogt & Magnussen, 2007). 116

Differences due to expertise are also found with regards to the art-making experience. Kozbelt et al., (2010) found artists' drawings to be more accurate than non-artists; artists were found to make better decisions on what features to include in their drawings thus their drawings captured specific features of the face being copied, whereas non-artists drawings were more generic. Artists have been found to possess greater cognitive abilities (perceptual and imagery) when completing drawing tasks where actual production was required, and during mental imagery performance (Calabrese & Marucci, 2006). Expertise has been found
to impact artistic creations with artists, not surprisingly, performing better on drawing tasks.
In addition to artists having a clear motor advantage, differences are apparent from gaze
when drawing. Artists have been found to process stimuli more easily (spend less time
fixating the stimulus to be copied) than non-artists regardless of the variations in stimuli
(familiarity/complexity) and this is suggested to be due to training (Glazek, 2012).

129

130 Gaze: A Tool for Observing Responses to Art and a Measure of Preference

As can be seen from the preceding section, research examining the eye movements of 131 artists has provided insight into the artistic process. Eye-tracking has also been a useful tool 132 for revealing cognitive processes during the aesthetic experience. Initial eye movement 133 reaction to artworks can be captured using such techniques with responses to art made within 134 100 ms being found to correlate with overall aesthetic ratings (Locher et al., 2007). Plumhoff 135 and Schrillo (2009) identified that images rated as pleasing led to greater fixation durations 136 over time than those rated as displeasing. Gaze has also been found to differ when making 137 138 art. Miall and Tchalenko (2001) studied an artist whilst creating art and recorded his eve 139 movements. Here, they found that the act of painting influenced gaze as fixation durations were twice as long as fixations made when he was not painting. Furthermore, eye-tracking 140 141 has been recently used as a method for understanding preferences and studies have found gaze to reflect aesthetic preferences and choices when observing multiple images (Shimojo, 142 Simion, Shimojo & Scheier, 2003; Glaholt, Wu & Reingold, 2009). Holmes and Zanker 143 (2012) found greater fixation durations and number of fixations to be made to aesthetically 144 preferred stimuli. In addition, free-viewing tasks, which do not provide the participant with 145 specific instruction, have further shown fixation to be influenced by preference with greater 146 fixation being towards faces regarded to be more attractive (Leder, Tinio, Fuchs & Bohrn, 147

148 2010). Thus eye-tracking is useful for further exploring art-viewing, art-making and decision-149 making, and gaze can be used as a measure of preference.

150

151 Summary

Art-making decisions made by the artist are suggested to be influenced by the artists' 152 aesthetic experience. Idea selection is a testable stage within the art-making process allowing 153 further understanding of these relationships between art-making and aesthetic experiences. 154 Previous research has identified similarities between aesthetic preference, an outcome of 155 aesthetic experiences, and production choice/creation, a process within art-making (Taylor & 156 Eisenman 1964; Boyatzis & Eades, 1999). However, here we explicitly examine these 157 relationships; importantly we do this for both non-artists and artists as differences in expertise 158 have been found regarding aesthetic and art-making experiences. Research within the field of 159 empirical aesthetics has begun to adopt more objective methods to explore aesthetic 160 experiences; here we include eye-tracking measures as a useful measure of preference that 161 also allows for further understanding of the formation of aesthetic judgements and has been 162 163 used in previous research exploring art-making activities.

164

165 The Present Study

Although previous research suggests that there are similarities between artistic production and aesthetic preference, which may be moderated by expertise, there is little research that directly tests these relationships. Here, we seek to examine these relationships in more depth. Using geometric shapes as stimuli, we examine artists and non-artists aesthetic (how pleasing they find the shapes) and drawing preferences (which shape they would prefer to draw out of a choice of two). To provide further insight into the process of forming these preferences we also track eye-movements whilst participants free-view images and make their drawing preferences. To be clear, drawing preference is a term we use in relation to the idea selection/drawing decision stage that is depicted in current art-making models. Here, we use a drawing choice task to provide options for the participants to select from and for them to indicate their drawing preferences.

In order to examine the suggested links between aesthetic and drawing preference we 177 use geometric stimuli. Geometric shapes (triangles, diamonds and circles) are common 178 shapes used in drawing tasks and are regularly incorporated into drawings, they are useful to 179 use when understanding relationships between aesthetically preferred stimuli and those 180 preferred for drawing as preferences for shapes can vary largely due to individual differences 181 (Chen et al., 2002; Chen, Tanaka, Matsuyoshi & Watanabe, 2016). By using geometric 182 stimuli we can provide parameters to control ideas not allowing them to be too broad, but 183 184 providing stimuli that share similarities yet differ (Sapp, 1995). Use of geometric stimuli also provides novel stimuli reducing the factor of familiarity which can have a great impact on 185 aesthetic preferences and gaze dependent on art expertise of participants (Leder, 2001; 186 Kristjanson, Antes & Kristjanson, 1989). As previously mentioned, complexity and 187 symmetry can also impact production, and manipulations in complexity and symmetry have 188 been particularly studied to understand aesthetic preferences of geometric and abstract shapes 189 (Chen et al., 2016; Gartus & Leder, 2013; Reber, Schwarz & Winkielman, 2004; Taylor & 190 Eisenman, 1964; Winston & Cupchik, 1992; McWhinnie, 1971; Jacobsen, Schubotz, Höfel & 191 192 Cramon, 2006). Thus geometrical stimuli differing in complexity and symmetry are used here. 193

We examine whether aesthetic preferences relate to drawing preferences: are those stimuli that are aesthetically preferred also those preferred to be drawn? And is this affected by expertise? Theories suggest relationships between an artists' aesthetic and art-making experience (Mace & Ward, 2002; Kay, 1991) and some empirical research suggests that there

198 are similarities between images aesthetically preferred and produced, yet no direct test of this has been conducted (Taylor & Eisenman, 1964; Boyatzis & Eades, 1999). Differences that 199 have been found in responses to art, production preferences and art-making abilities lead us 200 to expect differences in aesthetic and drawing preference relationships dependent on the 201 expertise of the participant. Kay (1991) states how artists' art-making experiences in 202 particular are guided by aesthetic experiences/preferences. Thus, we hypothesise that there 203 will be an association between how pleasing participants, particularly artists, find the 204 geometric images to be and how much they desire to create these. 205

Theories suggest that similar cognitive processes are involved when making and 206 observing art (Martindale, 2001; Tinio, 2013). We introduce two tasks (Free-viewing and 207 Drawing Choice) where stimuli are freely-viewed and where a drawing preference is made, 208 209 we examine gaze to further explore the relationships between aesthetic and drawing preference during their formation. Gaze has been used as a measure of preference and it has 210 been previously found that gaze (fixation duration and count) tends to be greater for 211 aesthetically preferred stimuli. However, it is not clear how aesthetic preferences relate to 212 gaze when freely viewing images, and as we explore the aesthetic and drawing preference 213 relationship it is interesting to examine if similar findings are found in relation to images that 214 are preferred for drawing (Holmes & Zanker, 2012; Leder, Tinio, Fuchs & Bohrn, 2010). 215 When drawing preferences are made then gaze is expected to be directed by choice, thus by 216 images preferred for drawing (Shimojo, Simion, Shimojo & Scheier, 2003; Glaholt, Wu & 217 Reingold, 2009). If aesthetic preference relates to drawing preference as suggested, then 218 images aesthetically preferred should also influence gaze in a similar manner. How gaze is 219 directed during a Free-viewing and Drawing Choice task is likely to differ dependent on 220 expertise. Artists have been found to process artworks differently to non-artists when 221 observing and creating art, in fact they are more likely to consider the artistic process during 222

mere observation (Pihko et al, 2011; Glazek, 2012; Pitman & Hirzy, 2010; Kozbelt, 2001).
Thus, we hypothesize that similar gaze behaviour will be made during the Free-viewing and
Drawing Choice task as we expect similar relationships between images aesthetically
preferred and those preferred for drawing with gaze (first saccade latency, first fixation
direction, fixation duration, fixation count, last fixation duration, and last fixation direction).
This would be particularly so for artists. In addition, we hypothesise that this relationship will
be more prominent the more an image is aesthetically preferred and preferred for drawing.

Method

231 **Participants**

A total of forty participants took part in this study. Twenty psychology students were 232 recruited from the University of Reading and were regarded as non-artists (11 females, 9 233 males; range 19-42). Twenty student artists (16 females, 4 males; range 20-35) were recruited 234 from the Fine Art department at the University of Reading. Participants were classified on the 235 basis of a background questionnaire. The questionnaire requested the participant to provide 236 the number of years of formal art training (A-level qualification and beyond) they had 237 received. A participant was regarded as an artist if they had at least 5 years of formal art 238 training and were involved in art-making on a weekly basis. Artists ranged from 5 to 7 years 239 with a mean of 5.6 years of training. The non-artists in this study had less than 1 year with a 240 mean of 0.05 years of training. All participants had normal or corrected-to-normal vision and 241 each stage of the study was completed by all participants. 242

243

244 Materials

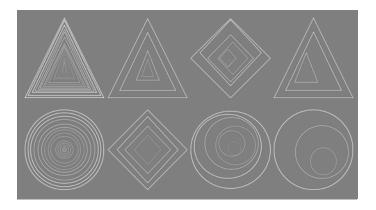


Figure 1. Examples of stimuli used in four subsets. Column one: complex-symmetrical (subset 1); Column two:
simple-symmetrical (subset 2); Column three: complex-asymmetrical (subset 3); Column four: simpleasymmetrical (subset 4).

The stimuli included 8 computer-generated geometric shapes that were fully constructed of triangles, diamonds or circles (see figure 1). Geometric stimuli provide the participant with potential ideas that do not give too much detail of a final product (i.e. colour and texture) which will not be available at such early stages of art-making. Both complexity and symmetry are manipulated here in order to evoke differences in aesthetic response not as primary experimental dimensions of interest in their own right (Eisenman, 1968; Eisenman & Gellens, 1968; Tinio & Leder, 2009).

The stimuli differed in terms of symmetry and complexity, this was confirmed by piloting images beforehand requesting participants (who were not involved in the current study) to rate images on a level of complexity [1(very simple) to 7(very complex)], and whether they contained at least one line of symmetry. 8 images were selected and were grouped into four subsets based on these ratings, each containing two images; [complexsymmetrical (subset 1), simple-symmetrical (subset 2), complex-asymmetrical (subset 3) and simple-asymmetrical (subset 4)].

Pleasingness Scale. A 7-point scale measuring pleasingness was used to gather aesthetic
ratings [1(very displeasing) to 7 (very pleasing)] (Russell & George, 1990).

Drawing Preference Scale. A drawing choice task presented participants' with multiple 265 options from which they could select the image they preferred to draw. Participants were 266 requested to make a selection by indicating how much they preferred to draw the image using 267 a relative preference scale. This scale was used to categorise drawing responses [1 (indicating 268 a strong preference for the left image) to 7 (a strong preference for the right)]. Relative 269 preference towards the two images was calculated by a key press of numbers 1-3 indicating a 270 preference for the left image or 5-7 for the right image (the more extreme values represent a 271 stronger preference), with 4 representing no preference (Park, Shimojo & Shimojo, 2010). 272

This scale provided drawing preference scores for each image from one response andprovided detail on how much more the participants wanted to draw one image over another.

275

276 Apparatus

Stimuli were presented on a 21" colour desktop PC that had a refresh rate of 75Hz. 277 The distance between the monitor and participant was 57cm. All images were presented on a 278 grey background and sized to 480 x 480 pixels. Stimulus width and height subtended 11.9° 279 and 11.9° of visual angle. Eye movements of the right eye were recorded using an Eyelink II 280 tracker with a sampling rate of 500Hz. A chin rest was used to constrain head movements and 281 participants were placed in a set position. At the beginning of each eye-tracking task a 282 standard 9-point grid was used to calibrate eye movements. All participants calibrated 283 successfully (average error less than 0.5 deg). Calibration was maintained for each trial using 284 285 a drift correct procedure between each trial that corrected fixation errors due to small movements in camera alignment (e.g. caused by head band slippage). 286

287

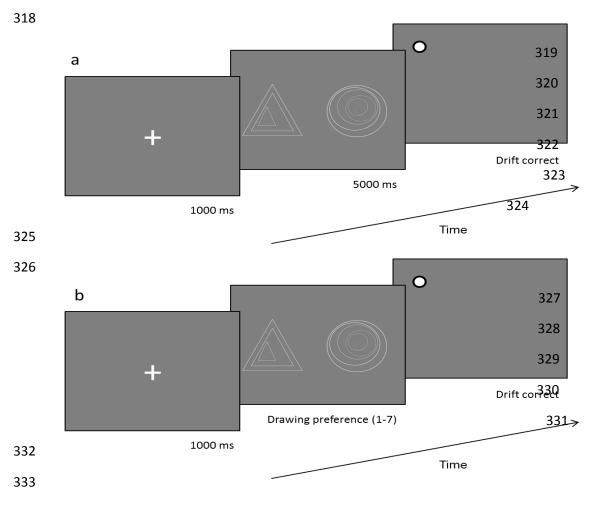
288 **Procedure**

A repeated measures design was used; all participants completed all sections of the experiment. Initially participants read the instructions provided and completed a consent form. At the end of the study participants were provided with a debrief form

Aesthetic Rating Task. Half of the participants gave aesthetic ratings for all images prior to the eye-tracking tasks (Free-viewing & Drawing Choice) while the remaining completed this at the end of the study. All images were presented for 5000ms prior to making an aesthetic judgement. 296 Free-viewing Task. 24 possible image pair combinations were viewed whilst eye movements were recorded and were randomised for all participants. For the free-viewing task 297 a fixation cross was displayed before each trial for 1000ms then participants were presented 298 with two images for 5000ms (see figure 2). 48 trials were completed at random (all stimuli 299 combinations were presented twice allowing each image in a pair to be presented on either 300 side of the screen); no further information was provided for this task. The Free-viewing task 301 was always completed prior to the Drawing Choice task to avoid bias, and eye-movements 302 were recorded during both tasks. 303

Drawing Choice Task. Participants then completed a Drawing Choice task during 304 which eye movements were recorded whilst participants made a preference on which image 305 306 of two they would prefer to draw (see figure 2). 24 possible image pair combinations were 307 viewed; this order was randomised for each participant. A fixation cross was first displayed for 1000ms; images were then presented until a preference was made as no time limit was 308 imposed. 96 trials were completed at random (all stimuli combinations were presented four 309 310 times allowing each image in a pair to be presented on either side of the screen twice). Here, more trials were incorporated as it was expected that the drawing preference scores would be 311 less stable (for example, due to naïve participants' lack of familiarity with making this 312 drawing preference judgement rather than a more common aesthetic preference judgement). 313 We measured drawing preference using a relative preference scale to gather responses on 314 what participants would choose to create and how much they preferred to create this 315 compared to the other image displayed. 316

317



334 *Figure 2.* Free-viewing (a) and Drawing Choice (b) task trial examples

336 Eye-tracking Analyses

A variety of gaze metrics were used including first fixation direction (to the left or 337 right stimulus), first saccade latency (the response time from stimuli onset to the start of the 338 first saccadic eye movement response), total fixation duration (the total amount of time spent 339 on each stimulus), and number of fixations (the total number of fixations on each stimulus). 340 In addition, for the Drawing Choice task in which a choice between stimuli is made, the last 341 fixation position (image that was being fixated when choice was made) and last fixation 342 duration (how long the last image was fixated as choice is made) were also reported. Such 343 gaze metrics are useful to examine and have been analysed in past research (Holmes & 344

Zanker, 2012). Fixations were classified as such if they exceeded 100ms; if fixation along the
x-axis was less than 800 pixels then this was regarded as fixation to the left image, if greater
than 800 pixels, then fixation was to the right image.

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349 Data Analyses

Repeated Measures ANOVA. Two-way repeated measures ANOVAs were run to 350 examine which images were fixated on more due to aesthetic and drawing preference. Each 351 trial of both the Free-view and Drawing Choice tasks was categorised and the aforementioned 352 gaze responses derived on the basis of the aesthetic rating that participant gave for each 353 image, e.g., the duration and number of fixations made on the most preferred image and the 354 duration and number of fixations on the least preferred image on each trial (answering the 355 question of whether gaze behaviour relates to the images aesthetically preferred). The same 356 357 trials from both tasks were then reclassified on the basis of the drawing preference score given for each image (answering the question of whether gaze behaviour relates to the images 358 359 preferred for drawing). Note that trials in which there was no preference found between the 360 images were removed.

Multi-level Model Analyses. Mixed-effect models were conducted using multi-level modelling, using the function "lmer" in the "lme4" package for the statistical program R (Bates, Maechler & Walker, 2013). Multi-level modelling considers that there is unexplained variability in all levels (Snijders & Bosker, 2012). Random intercepts for participant were included to take into account the variability due to differences between participants. The random intercept of image takes into account the variation caused by differences between images observed.

368 Aesthetic and drawing preference. Aesthetic ratings of each image were recorded and
 369 a drawing preference score for each image was calculated across the trials. We investigated

whether aesthetic preference associated with drawing preference. A mixed-effects model was conducted with drawing preference as the dependent variable. Aesthetic preference and expertise were included as fixed variables. We used a within-subject mean centering approach.

Proportion of fixation on aesthetic and drawing relative preference. Mixed-effects 374 models were also conducted with proportion of fixation on preference (aesthetic or drawing) 375 as the dependent variable. The difference between ratings (aesthetic and drawing preference) 376 and expertise were included as fixed variables. We used a within-subject mean centering 377 approach. We investigated whether proportion of fixation towards preference (aesthetic or 378 drawing) associated with the difference between ratings (aesthetic or drawing preference). In 379 380 order to run this analysis, the differences in ratings (aesthetic or drawing preference) given to each image on each trial and the proportion of time spent fixating each image was calculated. 381

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Results

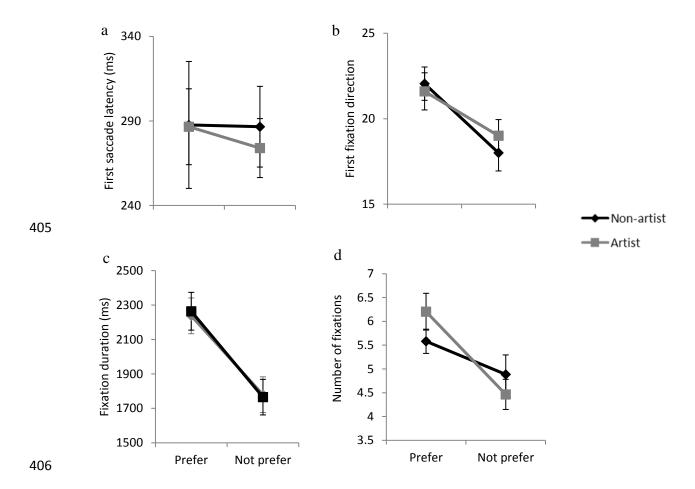
We first report mixed-effects models examining the association between aesthetic and 385 drawing preference (see Aesthetic and Drawing Preference Relationship Section). Gaze 386 behaviour during Free-viewing is then reported. Trials are classified first by aesthetic 387 preference (Free-viewing and Aesthetic Preference) and then by drawing preference (Free-388 viewing and Drawing Preference) for artists and non-artists. Finally, we report gaze 389 behaviour elicited during the Drawing Choice task in the same manner as the Free-viewing 390 task: trials classified first by aesthetic preference (Drawing Choice and Aesthetic Preference) 391 and then by drawing preference (Drawing Choice and Drawing Preference). In the sections 392 where gaze is reported, we also present mixed-effects models for the proportion of fixation 393 made towards preferences (aesthetic or drawing) dependent on differences between ratings 394 (aesthetic or drawing preference). 395

396

397 Aesthetic and Drawing Preference Relationship

A mixed-effects model was conducted to investigate whether aesthetic preference associated with drawing preference. Drawing preference scores increased with increasing aesthetic ratings (β = 0.869, SE= 0.0972, t= 8.940, p<0.001). There was no significant effect of expertise (β <0.001, SE= 0.127, t<0.001, p=1.000) nor was there an interaction between expertise and aesthetic ratings (β <0.001, SE= 0.0138, t=0.003, p=0.998).

403



404 Free-viewing and Aesthetic Preference

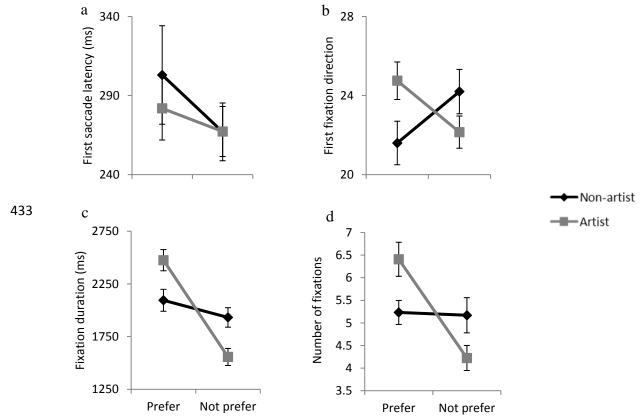
407 *Figure 3.* Free-viewing task (Aesthetic Preference). Shows gaze behaviour when image pairs are classified on 408 the basis of aesthetic preference: gaze on the aesthetically preferred stimulus and that on the non-preferred 409 stimulus. Upper row shows first saccade response: the latency of the response in milliseconds (Left) and its 410 direction (Right). Lower row shows overall fixation behaviour: mean total fixation duration in milliseconds 411 (Left) and the mean number of fixations (Right).

Figure 3 shows gaze behaviour elicited during the Free-viewing task when images are classified by aesthetic preference. A two-way ANOVA was conducted examining first saccade latency (fig. 3a) with aesthetic preference and expertise as factors. No main effects or interactions were found, all p's>.737. A series of two-way ANOVAs with the same factors were conducted examining first fixation direction (fig. 3b), fixation duration (fig. 3c) and number of fixations (fig. 3d). An effect of aesthetic preference was found with participants

19

419 fixating more on preferred stimuli: First Fixation Direction: F(1, 38)=7.097, MSE=31.1155420 p=0.011, $\eta^2=0.157$; Fixation Duration: F(1, 38)=17.092, MSE=411278.275, p<0.001, η^2 421 =0.310; Number of Fixations: F(1, 38)=12.717, MSE=2.329, p<0.001, $\eta^2=0.251$, 422 respectively. There was no main effect of expertise and no significant interaction, all 423 p's>0.135.

424 Proportion of Fixation Towards Aesthetic Preference and Differences Between 425 Aesthetic Ratings. A mixed-effects model was conducted to investigate whether the 426 proportion of fixation towards aesthetic preferences associated with the differences in 427 aesthetic ratings. The proportion of fixation spent on the aesthetically preferred image 428 increased with an increased difference in aesthetic ratings (β = 0.033, SE= 0.008, t= 3.939, 429 p<0.001). There was no effect of expertise (β =-0.041, SE= 0.036, t=-1.138, p=0.263). There 430 was no interaction between the fixed effects (β = -0.01, SE= 0.012, t=-0.801, p=0.423).



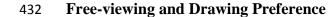




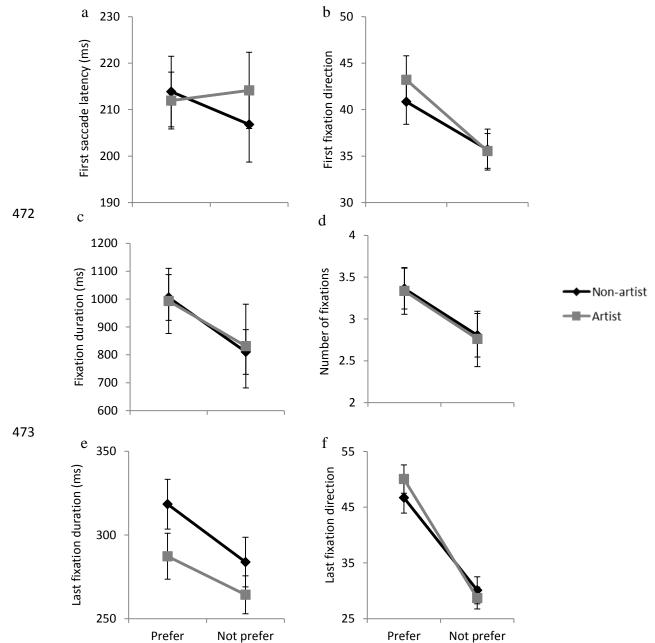
Figure 4. Free-viewing task (Drawing Preference) shows gaze behaviour when image pairs are classified on the
basis of drawing preference: gaze on the image that is preferred for drawing and that on the non-preferred.
Organisation of figures corresponds with figure 3.

Figure 4 shows gaze behaviour elicited during the Free-viewing task when images are 439 440 classified by drawing preference. A two-way ANOVA was conducted examining first saccade latency with drawing preference and expertise as factors. First saccade latency (fig. 441 4a) was found to be quicker towards stimuli less preferred for drawing (M=267.15) than 442 preferred (M=292.44), F(1, 38)=4.592, MSE=2785.269, p=0.039, $\eta^2=0.108$, there was no 443 main effect of expertise or any significant interactions, all p's>.371. A two-way ANOVA was 444 conducted examining first fixation direction with the same factors (fig. 4b), this showed no 445 main effects, all p's>.101, but did show a marginal interaction between drawing preference 446

and expertise F(1, 38)=3.536, MSE=135.2, p=0.068, $\eta^2=0.085$. Pairwise comparisons show 447 that artists made more first fixations (M=24.75) to images preferred for drawing compared to 448 non-artists (M=21.6), F(1, 38)=4.698, MSE=99.225, p=0.037, $\eta^2=0.110$. Further two-way 449 ANOVAs examining fixation duration (fig. 4c) and then number of fixations (fig. 4d) showed 450 only an effect of drawing preference with participants fixating for longer and more often on 451 the stimulus they preferred to draw: Fixation Duration F(1, 38)=17.765, MSE=328432.033, 452 p < 0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.319$; Number of Fixations: F(1, 38) = 12.724, MSE=1.979, p < 0.001, η^2 453 =0.251. There was no effect of expertise, all p's>0.744; however, an interaction between 454 drawing preference and expertise for both fixation duration and number of fixation metrics 455 was found, F(1, 38)=8.688, p<0.001, $\eta^2=0.186$; F(1, 38)=11.403, p=0.002, $\eta^2=0.231$, 456 respectively. Pairwise comparisons show that only artists fixated significantly longer on 457 images preferred for drawing (M=2475.2) than less preferred images (M=1557.4), F(1, 458 38)=25.650, p<0.001, η^2 =0.403, and made more fixations to images preferred for drawing 459

460 (*M*=6.4) than those less preferred (*M*=4.2), *F*(1, 38)=24.108, *p*<0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.388$.

Proportion of Fixation Towards Drawing Preference and Differences Between 461 Drawing Preference Scores. Further multi-level model analyses were conducted to examine 462 if the proportion of fixation to drawing preferences associated with the differences in drawing 463 preference scores. The proportion of fixation spent on the image preferred for drawing 464 increased as the differences in drawing preference scores increased (β = 0.042, SE= 0.008, t= 465 5.364, p<0.001). There was an effect of expertise (β =-0.093, SE= 0.031, t= -2.984, p<0.01) 466 which suggests that the proportion of fixation to drawing preference was greater for artists 467 (M=0.612) compared to non-artists (M=0.519). However, no interaction was found between 468 expertise and difference in scores (β = -0.019, SE= 0.011, t=-1.673, p=0.095), 469



471 Drawing Choice and Aesthetic Preference



475 *Figure 5.* Drawing Choice task (Aesthetic Preference): shows gaze behaviour when image pairs are classified 476 on the basis of aesthetic preference: gaze on the image that was aesthetically preferred and that on the non-477 preferred image. Upper row shows first saccade response: the latency of the response in milliseconds (Left) and 478 its direction (Right). Middle row shows overall fixation behaviour: mean total fixation duration in milliseconds 479 (Left) and the mean number of fixations (Right). Lower row shows last fixation behaviour: last fixation duration 480 (Left) and its direction (Right).

481 The previous two sections examined the behavioural results from the Free-viewing task. Here, we move on to the results from the Drawing choice task. The same data analysis 482 approach will be taken. Figure 5 shows gaze behaviour elicited during the Drawing Choice 483 task when images are classified by aesthetic preference. A series of separate two-way 484 ANOVAs were conducted, for each dependent variable. No main effects or interactions of 485 aesthetic preference and expertise were found for first saccade latency (fig. 5a), all p's>.329. 486 A main effect of aesthetic preference was found with participants fixating more on stimuli 487 they aesthetically preferred for first fixation direction (fig. 5b) F(1, 38)=7.872,488 MSE=104.067, p=0.008, $\eta^2 = 0.172$, fixation duration (fig. 5c) F(1, 38)=21.002, 489 MSE=30436.297, p<0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.356$, number of fixations (fig. 5d) F(1, 38)=24.995, 490 MSE=0.256, p<0.001, η^2 =0.397, last fixation duration (fig. 5e) F(1, 38)=10.381, 491 MSE=1600.295, p=0.003, $\eta^2 = 0.215$, and last fixation direction (fig. 5f) F(1, 38)=51.160, 492 MSE=140.755, p<0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.574$. No effect of expertise or interactions were found, all 493 *p*'s>0.376. 494

495Proportion of Fixation Towards Aesthetic Preference and Differences Between496Aesthetic Ratings. A mixed-effect model was conducted to examine if the proportion of497fixation to aesthetic preferences associated with the differences in aesthetic ratings. The498proportion of fixation spent on the image aesthetically preferred increased as the differences499in aesthetic ratings increased (β= 0.03, SE= 0.005, t= 5.502, p<0.001). No effect of expertise</td>500was found and there was no interaction (β=0.007, SE= 0.026, t= 0.276, p=0.784; β= -0.002,501SE= 0.008, t=-0.273, p=0.785).

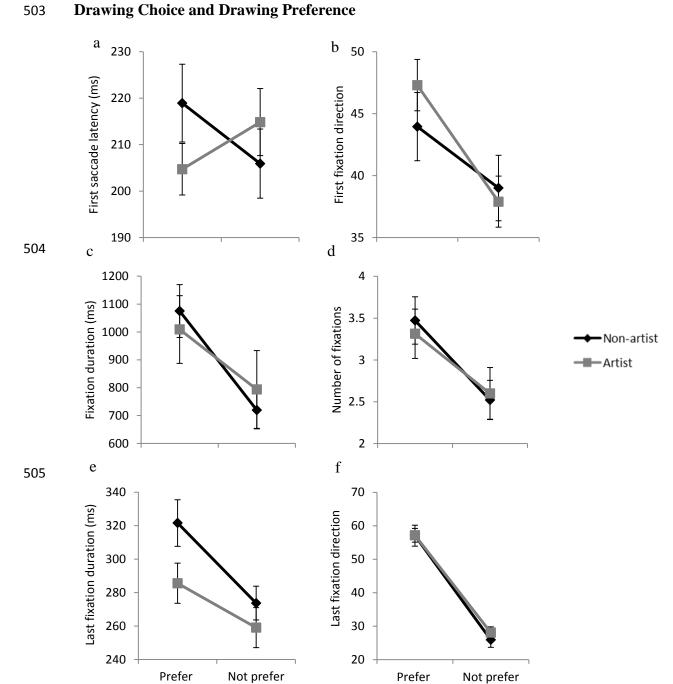


Figure 6. Drawing Choice task (Drawing Preference): shows gaze behaviour when image pairs are classified on
the basis of drawing preference: gaze on the image that is preferred for drawing and that on the non-preferred.
Organisation of figures corresponds with figure 5.

510 Figure 6 shows gaze behaviour elicited during the Drawing Choice task when images 511 are classified by drawing preference. First saccade latency behaviour was examined as a 512 function of aesthetic preference and expertise. A two-way ANOVA showed no main effects,

all p's>.666, but did show an interaction between expertise and drawing preference, F(1,513 38)=12.152, MSE=2679.466, p<0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.242$ which shows that artists' first saccade 514 latency (fig. 6a) was quicker to images preferred for drawing (M=204.7) than those not 515 preferred (M=214.8), F(1, 38)=4.654, p=0.037, $\eta^2 = 0.109$. Whereas non-artists first saccade 516 latency was quicker to images not preferred for drawing (M=205.9) than those preferred 517 $(M=218.9), F(1, 38)=7.687, p=0.009, \eta^2=0.168$. Similarly to previous sections, a series of 518 separate two-way ANOVAs were conducted for first fixation direction, fixation duration, 519 number of fixations, last fixation duration and direction with preference and expertise as 520 factors. A main effect of drawing preference was found with participants fixating more on 521 those stimuli they would prefer to draw for first fixation direction (fig. 6b) F(1, 38)=6.909, 522 MSE=149.023, p=0.012, η^2 =0.154, fixation duration (fig. 6c) F(1, 38)=53.844, MSE= 523 30221.218, p<0.001, η^2 =0.586, number of fixations (fig. 6d) F(1, 38)=63.458, MSE=0.218, 524 p < 0.001, $\eta^2 = 0.625$, last fixation duration (fig. 6e) F(1, 38) = 22.998, MSE=1204.925, p < 0.01, 525 $\eta^2 = 0.377$ and last fixation direction (fig. 6f) F(1, 38) = 130.327, MSE=139.268, p<0.001, η^2 526 =0.774. No effect of expertise or interactions were found, all *p*'s>0.176. 527

Proportion of Fixation Towards Drawing Preference and Differences Between Drawing Preference Scores. Multi-level models were carried out to examine if the proportion of fixation to drawing preferences associated with the differences in drawing preference scores. The proportion of fixation spent on the image preferred for drawing increased with increasing differences in drawing preference scores (β = 0.025, SE= 0.005, t= 4.915, p<0.001). There was no effect of expertise, nor was there an interaction (β =0.025, SE= 0.022, t= 1.143, p=0.260; β =- 0.00002, SE= 0.007, t=-0.003, p=0.998).

Discussion

Similarities in cognitive processes have been suggested between the creation and 537 perception of art (Martindale, 2001). However, research has not been conducted directly 538 examining the artist's aesthetic and art-making experience, although these relationships are 539 suggested in current art-making models (Kozbelt, 2017; Mace & Ward, 2002). Here, we 540 investigate the experience of the artist prior to considering both the perceiver and artist 541 relationships suggested in Tinio's mirror model of art. To date studies have only made 542 indirect conclusions suggesting that there are similarities between preference and production 543 (Tavlor & Eisenman, 1964; Boyatzis & Eades, 1999), but here we gathered aesthetic and 544 drawing preferences from both artists and non-artists to directly probe these relationships. 545 Moreover, in order to explore the formation of aesthetic and drawing preference we recorded 546 547 gaze behaviour examining the cognitive processes during perception (Free-viewing task) and consideration for creation (Drawing Choice task). We analyse eye-tracking trials on the basis 548 of aesthetic and drawing preference to make conclusions on the relationships between 549 550 aesthetic, drawing preferences and the formation of these judgements.

551

552 Aesthetic and Drawing Relationship

553 Drawing preference is found to be associated to aesthetic preference regardless of 554 expertise supporting that a relationship exists between preference and production. We can 555 conclude that the more pleasing an image is found to be the greater the preference is to draw 556 it. Over the next two sections we look further into the relationship between aesthetic and 557 drawing preference by examining how preferences (aesthetic and drawing) relate to gaze 558 when both free-viewing and making a drawing preference.

560 Free-viewing Task

When non-artist and artist participants freely viewed pairs of stimuli we find 561 aesthetically preferred images to be fixated on for longer periods of time, more often, fixated 562 first and more on the image the more they prefer it. This supports previous research that 563 suggests gaze is influenced by preference (Shimojo, Simion, Shimojo & Scheier, 2003; 564 Holmes & Zanker, 2012). When we re-categorised free-viewing trials by drawing preference 565 differences were found due to expertise with only artists' gaze being influenced by drawing 566 preference. They fixated for longer on the image they preferred to draw, made more fixations 567 and fixated on these more at the earliest opportunity. However, both artists and non- artists 568 fixated more on the image they preferred to draw the more they desired to draw it. These 569 differences between expertise may reflect previous reports of experienced artists being more 570 deeply engaged (e.g., longer fixation durations) with the stimuli and the creative process 571 (Nodine, Locher & Krupinski, 1993; Tinio, 2013). When viewing art, artists may be 572 interested in understanding the processes required to create the artwork and may observe and 573 analyse images as a medium that can be reproduced (Pitman & Hirzy, 2010). Artists may 574 consider drawing preferences at this stage of viewing an image as they consider more about 575 the artist behind the production. It has been suggested, in regards to paintings, that artists 576 577 visualise more of the underdrawings whereas non-artists cannot visualise beyond the surface features (Chatterjee & Vartanian, 2016). This suggests that the observation of art is not a 578 passive process, particularly for an artist. Observing art results in similar experiences when 579 both producing and appreciating art (Dewey, 1934; Tinio, 2013). 580

581

582 Drawing Choice Task

583 When a drawing preference was being made we find similar gaze patterns compared 584 to free-viewing. This supports the suggestion that similar cognitive processes are involved in

both the perception and creation of art (Martindale, 2001). Aesthetically preferred stimuli and
those preferred for drawing were fixated on more, for longer, at the first opportunity, lastly,
for longer before making a drawing preference and was fixated on more the more the image
was preferred (aesthetic and drawing). These results further support that gaze is influenced by
preference and reflects choice (Holmes & Zanker, 2012; Shimojo, Simion, Shimojo &
Scheier, 2003; Glaholt, Wu & Reingold, 2009).

During this task, stimuli were only viewed for a short period of time before a drawing 591 preference was made supporting that this choice is made rapidly (Groenendijk, Janssen, 592 Rijlaarsdam & van den Bergh, 2013), in fact we find that artists first fixated their drawing 593 preference more quickly (first saccade latency) whereas non-artists first fixated images less 594 preferred for drawing more quickly. Differences here may be due to gaze gradually shifting 595 596 towards the preferred choice (Shimojo, Simion, Shimojo & Scheier, 2003); non-artists may not consider which image they would draw at this early stage. However, more first fixations 597 were made to images preferred and those preferred for drawing regardless of expertise. 598 Nevertheless, artists may be more aware of choices they will make as they consider the art-599 making process more and were found to fixate more on what they would prefer to draw when 600 free-viewing stimuli. 601

602

603 Limitations and Future Directions

In an attempt to allow both non-artists and artists to realistically be able to produce the stimuli, geometric shapes were used here rather than artworks. The use of abstract geometric shapes can also be suggested to be more reflective of the decisions made in the initial stages of art-making avoiding features of artworks that develop in later stages such as the addition of colour and texture. However, geometric shapes may be considered to be relatively far removed from the common sources of inspiration upon which art is created. To 610 address this, the approach adopted here can be further developed by the use of stimuli such as photographs of real world scenes as would be used in landscape art. These can be used to 611 form the basis of drawing decisions. This research can also be further extended to consider 612 expert artists, particularly those with specific expertise in drawing. Artists were involved in 613 the current study; however it has been reported that art students verbalise and acknowledge a 614 lack of skill in drawing (McManus et al., 2010). Therefore, a useful next step in this area of 615 research would be to replicate this study with other groups of art experts and other forms of 616 617 art.

It is important to examine how the artists' own experience directs art-making decisions, which has been explored here. However, when we consider the relationship between aesthetic and drawing preference we can also consider a deeper experience of artmaking. Future research will examine the relationships between aesthetic and drawing experiences when making art at different stages of the process.

623

624

Conclusion

An association between aesthetic and drawing preferences was found, drawing 625 626 preference scores increased with increasing aesthetic ratings regardless of expertise. Gaze behaviour when free-viewing reflects behaviour when making a drawing preference as gaze 627 appears to be directed by the images aesthetically preferred during both tasks. For artists, 628 their gaze when free-viewing was also influenced by images preferred for drawing. This 629 suggests that a more fluid relationship exists for artists between images aesthetically 630 631 preferred and those preferred for drawing. We suggest that during initial stages of art-making the aesthetic judgements of ideas are an important component in their selection. A strong 632 relationship between the two was found with support from gaze behaviour. Here, we focus on 633 634 the experiences of just the artist, but further studies are required to explore the artist in

- relation to the perceiver of the final product. Such research enables a greater understanding of
- this interaction where we can explore the artist and their creation process in conjunction with
- the perceiver and their aesthetic experience (Tinio, 2013; Vartanian, 2014).

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