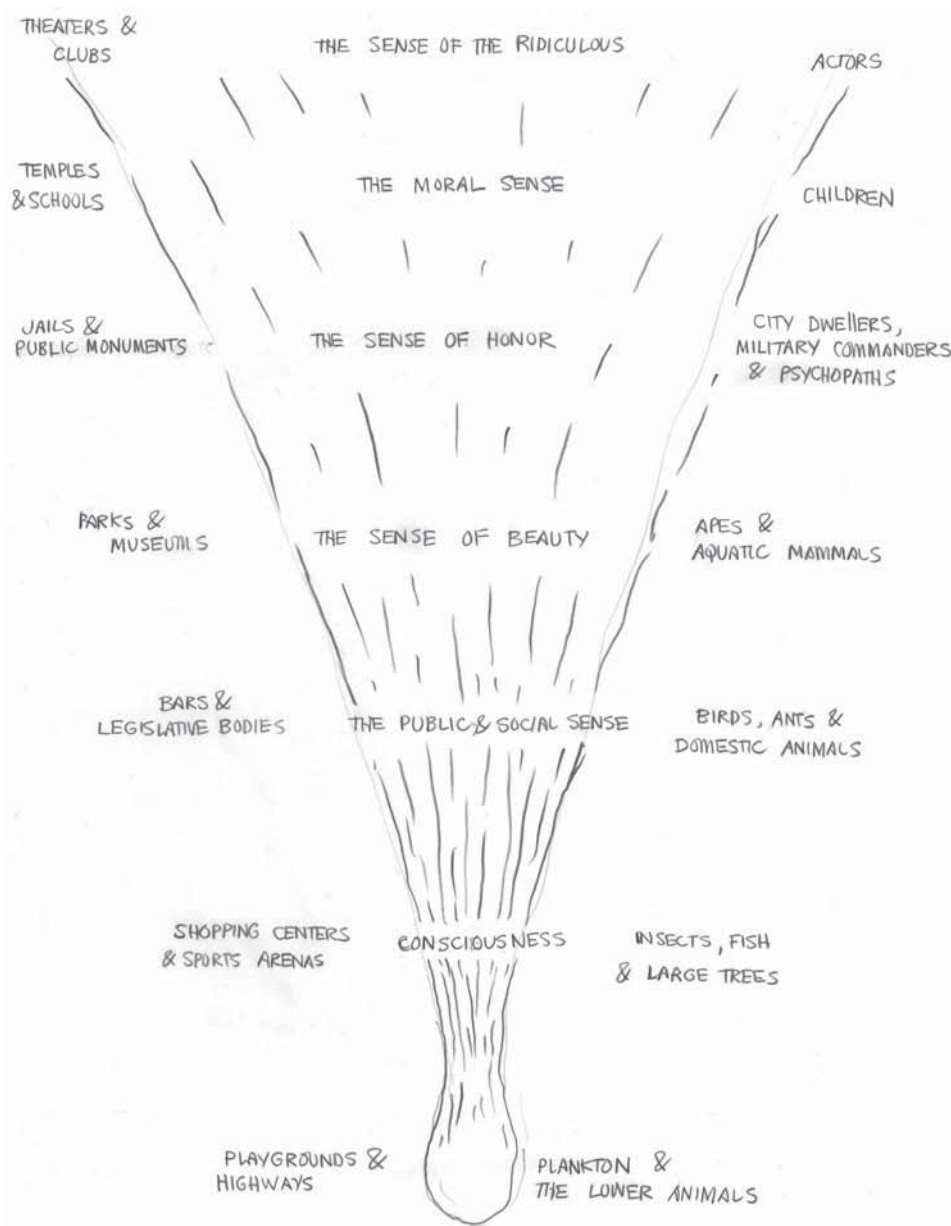




In Search of Connections



Hutcheson's Moral Senses

THE 18th CENTURY Scottish theologian and philosopher, Francis Hutcheson, believed that there was an intimate connection between the perception of beauty and increased morality. The more we see beautiful things, the better people we become. Furthermore, he proposed a hierarchy of beauty, and the attendant moral insights. Imagine then what divine moral creatures museum guards must be! These are his categories, in ascending order. In an attempt to be helpful, I have placed appropriate settings and occupations alongside his categories.

– David Byrne

Musician, artist, thinker David Byrne created drawings/diagrams (mostly) in the form of trees. The drawings were published by McSweeney's as **Arboretum** in 2006 – straight from Byrne's sketchbook, smudges and all, plus a four-foot foldout guide. It's an eclectic blend of faux science, automatic writing, satire, and an attempt to find connections where none were thought to exist – a sort of self-therapy, allowing the hand to say what the voice cannot. Irrational logic, it's sometimes called – the application of logical scientific rigor and form to basically irrational premises. To proceed, carefully and deliberately, from nonsense, with a straight face, often arriving at a new kind of sense. The world keeps opening up, unfolding, and just when we expect it to be closed – to be a sealed, sensible box – it shows us something completely surprising.

www.davidbyrne.com/art/tree_drawings

Have a look at some of Byrne's funky, award-winning bike racks by going to: www.alternativesjournal.ca/34-5.6/toc.

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