“Beauty is universally experienced, but there is no agreement on the essential nature of beauty. There are so many facets to aesthetic responsiveness that common elementals are difficult to discover and generalizations seem to be impractical.” The above quote by Arnold Wirtala, from Taste in the Arts: A Problem of Aesthetic Value, provides an account of a problem throughout aesthetics in how humans discuss art and make claims about art if there is no consensus of the essential nature of beauty. I intend to clarify our responses to art and the nature of aesthetic response by first rejecting and providing criticism of the necessity for beauty in art. Secondly, I will provide a constructive theory of the essential nature of aesthetic response by clarifying two ways one may have an aesthetic response, through intrigue and nostalgia. I will thus clarify the nature of aesthetic response in a way not directly tied to beauty. Lastly, I will discuss how the responses are related, and what their roles are in the scope of understanding. In doing so, I will provide a defense for non-beauty based aesthetic theories.