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Skin: The fifth dimension and sixth sense of beauty

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Abstract

Background: Plastic Surgery as a discipline represents the quintessential confluence of artistry and science. By virtue of the fact that our results are dynamic and are altered by time, Aesthetic Surgery is unlike its static counterparts such as sculpture or painting. As an art form it stands all but alone as true "Living Art."

As a science, plastic surgery is on a perpetual quest to quantify, identify, and define beauty in an analytical manner. By doing so, we hope to create methods that deliver reproducible results. The problems we ask ourselves to solve are, "What is Beauty?" and "How do we create it?"

The inconvenient truth of these questions is that we are forever striving to describe a wholly Right Brain concept – Beauty – through Left Brain gymnastics. Although this can bring us very close to the answers we seek; we can never get there without an appreciation of the emotional and limbic nature of beauty.

Discussion and Conclusion: This presentation seeks to explore the often overlooked intangibles of beauty that are most evident in skin. The author asserts that youthful, healthy skin is the single most important aspect of beauty and yet the most often neglected or under-addressed in our aesthetic manipulations. As surgeons and physicians our handling of skin can be precise and targeted, but equally myopic. For example, the absence of wrinkles does not always create youthful-appearing skin and simple tightening unaccompanied by skin improvement never creates beauty. This "Sixth Sense" of beauty has been understood and appreciated by us on an almost subconscious level for as long as we have existed; and has played a huge role in how we have evolved.

The author will take a journey through time, history, art, and evolution in order to establish a platform from which we can be begin to refine our efforts of skin manipulation and surgical technique to chase this elusive Gestalt of Beauty.

Biography

Frederick A. Coville, a New Jersey Plastic Surgeon based in the city of Linwood, has been invited to speak this month at the prestigious 36th Annual Congress of the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery being held this year in Oslo, Norway. He holds the honor of being the Keynote Speaker on the topic of Facial Rejuvenation. This conference attracts Plastic Surgeons specializing in plastic surgery of the face and neck from all over the world, including the U.S. and represents the most elite group of Facial Plastic Surgeons in Europe. Dr. Frederick Coville is an internationally recognized plastic and reconstructive surgeon who now practices here in Linwood, New Jersey. Dr. Fred's experience in combining skin rejuvenation with sophisticated surgical and non-surgical techniques has earned him the respect of plastic surgeons and dermatologic colleagues internationally. He has an exceptional perspective in maximizing beauty. For these reasons, Dr. Coville, a native New Yorker, has become a widely sought-after speaker around the world.