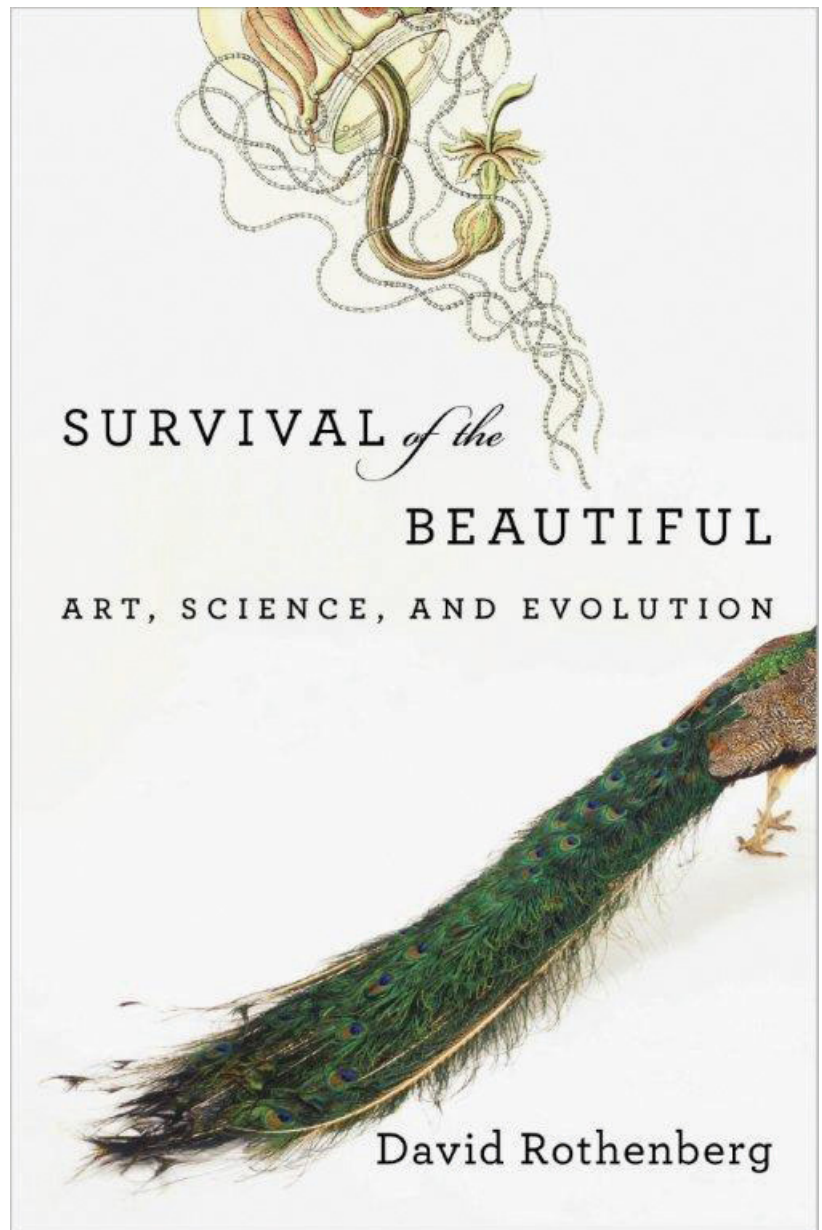


"The peacock's tail," said Charles Darwin, "makes me sick." That's because the theory of evolution as adaptation can't explain why nature is so beautiful. It took the concept of sexual selection for Darwin to explain that, a process that has more to do with aesthetics than the practical. *Survival of the Beautiful* is a revolutionary new examination of the interplay of beauty, art, and culture in evolution. Taking inspiration from Darwin's observation that animals have a natural aesthetic sense, philosopher and musician David Rothenberg probes why animals, humans included, have innate appreciation for beauty-and why nature is, indeed, beautiful.

Rothenberg, a musician and philosopher and author of *Why Birds Sing* and *Thousand Mile Song*, goes on to explain how abstract art in the twentieth century has changed the way we see the world to then change the way science tries to describe and transform that world.

**David Rothenberg will
talk on his latest book,
Survival of the Beautiful
May 15th, 7pm, 6:30
Reception, book signing
to follow talk**



This is the triumphant lesson of Survival of the Beautiful: nature is not entirely red in tooth and claw, it also allows the beautiful right of passage.

- Peter Forbes, The Guardian

A searching, accessible, and often ecstatic book.

- Wall Street Journal



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