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## cosmetic beauty American system of values / romantic-classic

Posted by Mark Smigel - 2009/09/08 09:35

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I have what is probably a dumb question: To me, it seems that one of the tenets of Western civilization (especially America) is an obsession with surface appearance... money, status symbols, cosmetic beauty, etc. On the same token there is widespread apathy, perhaps even suspicion, regarding the disciplines of science and logic. Scientists and engineers in our culture comprise a weird cult, while entertainers and artists are celebrated. This sounds like a strongly romantic system of values, NOT a classic one. Why, then, do I keep reading that Western values are tied to the classic pole of the classic-romantic dichotomy? MJ

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