



Das Seminar - sozialästhetische Schulungsstätte (seit 1973)
Studientexte
Sozialästhetik

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The task of the seminar

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The task of the "Seminar for Free Youth Work, Art and Social Organics" lies in the area of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum in Dornach (Switzerland). The seminar is part of the continuity of Rudolf Steiner's scientific work, and of the social task initiated by the Christmas Conference at the turn of the year 1923/1924. Without a connection to this, neither university work, nor introductory work, nor social-pedagogical work in the modern sense is possible. Rudolf Steiner characterized the impulse of higher education in two ways. On the one hand, through the introspection of the process of cognition and the simultaneous construction of reality and the spiritual part of the human being, carried out according to the scientific method. On the other hand, through the foundation of a community of knowledge, in which like striving people can develop the kind of knowledge and activity of observation, which they have gradually attained in scientific meditation, according to their inner destiny. This is the formation of a circle of friends of free individualities united in common consciousness, who set themselves the goal of forming a realm of cultural-therapeutic activity in their circle through mutual selfless support.

This double disposition of the new impulse of higher education is a protection and a warning against two selfish tendencies. One of them desires to possess insights that can be handed down instead of those that have been acquired through one's own fully awake oversight. The other one lets itself be led by the unhistorical enjoyment of subjective or group-bound desires, which forgets the spiritual unity of mankind and the responsibility in receiving the nourishment of the soul. After all, even in the largely subconscious being carried by a spiritual current, one is obliged to the fatefully interwoven deeds and sufferings of those who moved and move them. In the sense of this double disposition of its impulse, the seminar is carried by the double sense of responsibility towards methodological rigor as well as historical fidelity.

This is the reason for the structure of the work of the seminar. The seminar is intended for young and younger people who want to open the access to the spiritual world not by imparting knowledge but by training their own observation ability. The powers of insight and responsibility gained in the way of spiritual observation can lead to a discerning revival of the artistic productivity that is dying out in mankind today. This can gain nothing by imitating recipes, but everything by the fully conscious revival of the responsible activity of cognition. And finally, in the sense of what has been indicated here, the seminar has set itself the task of cultivating a new social organic creative faculty. For it is part of the essence of all observing penetration into the spiritual world to become aware of the affiliation to a spiritual community and its forms of life. An already published publication contains examples of the research work carried out in the seminar.

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