

SUMMARY

How does truth ‘come into being’ or ‘occur’ and, moreover, does this happen in the same way in mathematics, physics, archaeology, economics, biology, history of art, philosophy, or in art itself?

This question was gradually formulated in a trans-disciplinary discussion at the Center for Theoretical Study¹ – a discussion initially focused on how far, between disciplines, we can share our criteria of veracity, relevance, provability, verifiability; our ways of arriving at findings and of discerning between actual findings and merely apparent ones; our conceptions of the relationship between facts, understanding and interpretations.

The twelve chapters resulting from this debate aim to show the following:

- how the problem of truth arises anew whenever, in an act of understanding, sensuality is connected with thinking, when the individual is connected with the general (Pavel Kouba);
- how every reflection on truth implies a reflection on being and non-being, on the changeless and the changing (Ivan Chvatík);
- how truth as appeal and obligation always implies a degree of guarantee and trust (Jan Frei);
- how what appears as objective data could prove to be interpretation and construction (Karolína Pauknerová);
- how scientific theories and models, in a similar manner as species in nature, assert themselves, compete for survival and disappear (David Storch);
- how in economics truth can be conceived both in terms of correspondence and coherence (Marek Hudík);
- how is it that a form of truth occurs in the process of psychotherapy that is neither theoretical nor immediately effective (Ingrid Strobachová);

¹ Center for Theoretical Study (CTS), the Institute for Advanced Studies, jointly established and run by Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

- whether the only criterion of truth in mathematics is logical provability and whether mathematical objects are products of the human mind (Petr Kůrka);
- whether we can legitimately raise the demand for correspondence in modern mathematics or whether such a demand has been entirely abandoned (Kateřina Trlifajová);
- how it is that the search for truth in physics is compatible with the patient, gradual verification of findings (Bedřich Velický);
- how a successful work of art manifests both the truth of the thing depicted and a truth of its own (Michal Ajvaz);
- how a true work of art always represents a new beginning whose truth must be respected by the history of art (Alexander Matoušek).