

Format, Focus, Fiction

What knowledge has to do with education and art

Anyone who not only possesses knowledge, but also - as is customary today - sorts, prepares and communicates it on a daily basis, is not only a data collector, but also a constructor of reality, his or her own 2nd order laboratory, so to speak (Niklas Luhmann): knowledge has long since transformed into a permanently new activity that has to be performed anew, and has thus assumed the status of a contemporary raw material. "Education is work on itself" (Konrad Paul Liessmann) - and with knowledge that is suitable or made suitable.

In earlier times, knowledge often had a lifelong value or duration; once acquired, one could grow old together with it. Today's knowledgeable people model their daily new realities in such a way that they can distinguish between models and fictions with a little more precision. In this way, knowledge appears to be up-to-date and new: as a format that illuminates a certain context, as a focus that is formulated to enable concentrated work and to make it more pointed, as fiction to describe more precisely what distinguishes a model from reality and reality from the model. In each of these cases, today's user must recognize, know and represent what he or she is doing and become active himself or herself in order to make something new and unique out of existing knowledge - and last but not least, to gain a conscious attitude. Seen in this light, one can say - to put it somewhat exaggeratedly - that education today is an aesthetic, consciously made form of knowledge and its forms of appropriation.

A format is a form that sharpens and bundles current knowledge in such a way that it focuses on a question. Questions open new horizons. They increase my knowledge about the world and its states. How does the bundled focus of my current perception change when it is questioned? Doesn't the focus that bundles my concentration become a fiction of its own at some point? A bubble in which my knowledge of reality is given back distorted? One can obviously focus and depict a problem so one-sidedly that everything around me appears fictional, even as a threat, and I no longer want to look myself in the eye as a victim of the circumstances. Everyone who focuses his world view in this way becomes an ideologist of himself. What does it mean then to focus only knowledge? Shouldn't one rather try to face reality and show attitude today?

There is no undisputed information, but there are aspects of problems that are more or less relevant. Problems that have become relevant are problems that affect their perceptibility and evaluation. A focus filters problems in such a way that certain aspects are no longer perceived or are no longer addressed, even though the presentation pretends they depict a world. Just as the fan experiences a limited reality from his tendency to be enthusiastic but also limited fan view, so his own focus filters only certain aspects and thereby transforms them into the indeterminate, exaggerated and artificially triggered.

On the one hand, a focus creates a bubble of known knowledge; as fiction, however, knowledge also appears as transformable at any time. Not everything that one knows or believes to know for sure has to be said; but one should develop an attitude towards what may not agree with the opinion of majorities. To criticize an opinion of majorities, a society must also afford spaces of dissenting opinions.