

Sound – A Concept

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Voice Lecturing:

One of the first conceptual investigations, carried out in ancient Greece by Socrates, asked the following question: What is X? Socrates showed us, eventually, that we will never be able to reach and grasp a pure form of X beyond our use of language. Plato was not obligated to the claim that such a pure form ontologically exists; his efforts in the act of definition were part of the conceptual investigation of which the pure form was supposed to be its purpose.

Conceptual investigation = conceptualization. A concept appears, as opposed to a term, not through our expression and use of an already defined noun or adjective that has by now become well established, but rather when we unfold the essence of a certain concept through teasing away its meanings. When we do not defer nor dwell on a concept, when we do not investigate it conceptually, we tend to use it as a term. A term, as opposed to a concept, is a stabilized "black box" of meaning that can be loaded with any content whatsoever in order to ease the flow of communication. A concept appears when one stops for a moment, opens the box, and asks: What is, in fact, this X? This means that before the concept becomes a definite semantic or logical unit, a concept is a principle of discoursing activity that gives form to a certain subject matter. This activity is open-ended and infinite; it is also, as the sphere of discoursing practice, the duplication medium for the emergence of any future concepts.

Tardiness, delay, deferral, postponement – time is the primary dimension of the duplication medium where the concept eventually appears. The time in which a concept is conceived can be of a relatively short duration or a long one. Either way, time is a condition necessary to conceptualize, and in essence, it prevents a certain medium of expression from freezing the continuous discoursing activity that is required to be expressed in a poly-dimensional manner. The one who conceptualizes, whose means of (supposedly) wasting time, might be seen as a significant threat to the dominant order. Thus the one who conceptualizes is a disordering factor, and as such, is exposed to possible attacks by regulators of the discourse. Therefore, by risking one's social status or any other arbitrary conditions, the one who conceptualizes unfolds truth. With time by his or her side, and through the active practice of discoursing, truth unfolds and concepts emerge.

Now let's talk about the concept of sound.

You are hearing various sounds right now. Like all sounds that meet each other, they make a certain composition. My present composition is not finished until you, my interlocutors, perceive it. Naturally this present composition (like any other composition) is always connected to previous and future compositions, and

so a composer (or an artist) never reaches a dead end. Your reactions, feelings, thoughts and comments about this composition is valuable to me, and in one way or the other, they will find their way into my next work. But in order for your contribution to be of real value, it is crucial that you will truly try to enter into the work; that you will use all your senses while it happens; that you will prevent your thoughts from wandering back to things that happened earlier today or to things that will happen later on; and that you will not try to identify various connection-points with already familiar ideas you might have, which in turn might cause you to drift away in a personal journey of associations. I ask you to experience this piece like an animal traveling through wilderness; since something is happening in the world right now, and you experience it, I ask you to postpone your criticism at least until after you have let the work penetrate you, until you have truly perceived it.

A curious person contemplates the work being perceived, what it means, what can be done with it. If you will approach my piece with such curiosity, you will be doing the most wonderful thing for me that can possibly be done. Indeed I speak to you in this piece: I created it for you, not solely for myself. If you are willing to truly open yourself to it, then we might converse over few things that I've wanted to talk to you about. No prior knowledge of any kind is needed in this conversation; something is happening, and I thank you for willing to be part of it, for your willingness to conceptualize it.