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## *Form in art and aesthetics*

*The Latin »form« contains the Greek terms »eidos« and »morphè«, the former denoting the inner and the latter the outer form.*

*It seemed that the structural approach would resolve the traditional separation between form and content, which took place especially in our century. Nevertheless, this was not the case.*

*In recent times the concept of form (and of formalism) is losing trivial meaning as well as its dependance upon content. In another way this change could be expressed as a passage from Hegel to Kant.*

*In art and culture the »return to form« is present especially in postmodern works. In this light a new and special position is being attained by the aesthetics called »formalist« and, simultaneously, by those theories which originate in the contemporary, i.e. the most recent art and culture, of which the basic traits are form, repetitiveness, déjà vu, etc.*

*Our hypothesis is that similar conclusion can be reached in other areas of social practice and knowledge and can be thus discerned also in a series of theoretical areas.*

*The two questions that we thus put forward are: – What is the contemporary status of the concept of form in different fields of knowledge? – Is this concept (inclusively its conceptual derivations) therefore attaining a different status?*

The above letter was sent to various philosophers and social scientists, asking them to contribute articles on the topic of form. This issue of *Filozofski vestnik* contains the received papers.

Papers of Lars-Olof Åhlberg, Paul Crowther, Aleš Erjavec, Charles Harrison and Martin Jay were presented or submitted at the colloquium »Form«, organized by the Slovenian Society for Aesthetics (Ljubljana, 11-12 October 1990).

