

ABSTRACT

The Concept of Religion in the Context of Aesthetics

This article presupposes that a clarification of the concept of religion must also direct its attention towards aesthetics. The questioning line starts from aesthetics and seeks to contribute to an explanation of religion. However, it is not only the sought-after concept of religion that is unclear; aesthetics also offers no secure terrain from which we can start. We first ask whether their connection is merely a sub-discipline of other fields or, as the discipline of Religionsästhetik claims for itself, whether it also touches on fundamental reflections. With Kant and Hölderlin, we examine whether religion and aesthetics refer directly to each other or can only be related to each other via a third moment. We then ask with Vattimo whether the interrelatedness of religion and aesthetics can be considered ahistorically or whether it provokes philosophical-historical questions. Concluding, we ask with Hegel about the permeability of the categories of religion and aesthetics.