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# "READING BUILDINGS"

## *Understanding the works of visual art*

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(*Abstract*) In my presentation I approach the process of understanding the works of visual art from hermeneutic point of view, including Hans-Georg Gadamer`s concept of understanding. According to Gadamer the understanding of a painting or a building does not stop at the iconographic interpretation or at the description of the architectural stylistic features. It is rather an atmosphere which we all understand when the sight of "almost comes to us as a shock". Therefore the problem of understanding the works of visual art is approached from the question-and-answer logic. This relation raises the question of how can a work of art call its receiver to understanding? How can we interpret Gadamer`s assertion that we need to learn to read the works of visual art as well as the literary works. What kind of host behavior is faced in the conceived understanding situation? Searching the answer to these questions, in my presentation I wish to point out that the work of art as an autonomous unit is always able to carry a valid message for its contemplating subject.

*Keywords:* visual art, buildings, understanding, hermeneutics, question-and-answer logic, dwelling, reading.

*ASPECTS OF RESEARCH*

The interpretation of hermeneutics` concept of understanding.
The structure of understanding's question-and-answer.
"Reading Buildings."
Host behavior.

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