



Dear Members of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts,

welcome to the winter term of our lectures series „Science meets Arts /Arts meets Science“ – a wonderful and successful event of our Academy. I thank the organizers Dean Violeta Dinescu (class III: Arts) and Dean Ioannis Liritzis (class IV: Natural Sciences) cordially for all their efforts. We all looked forward to continue our meetings and vivid discussions.

This lecture series is so successful, because it fits the interdisciplinary spirit of our academy of sciences and arts. Most academies are only restricted to sciences and research. In this case, only rational thinking and logic are addressed. The measure of science is objectivity. But arts also addresses our imagination, emotion, and inspiration – and that means our human subjectivity.

This evening, the first talk in arts asks for the motivation and driving forces, the criteria of human subjectivity, the „inner voice“ to select our preferences. The difference between subjectivity and objectivity in arts only emerged in modern times. In antiquity, a universal order of proportions was assumed, expressed in numerical ratios in music, architecture, astronomy and geometry. Some of these proportions were distinguished as "beautiful", such as the golden ratio in arts or particular musical intervals. Against this background, the fundamental question arises as to which standards we use to distinguish our preferences today.

The second talk in science will consider ancient engineering of Roman fish tanks. This kind of engineering enabled human culture, preferences of nutrition, human life style – and thus also human subjectivity. Further on, the Roman fish tanks were understood as sea level indicator. Today, the changing sea level is understood as a dramatic signal of ecological-climatic changes. The question arises whether the people of antiquity also interpreted these changes in this way, i.e. whether there was already something like an ecological consciousness back then.

We are eager to learn more about that.

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Klaus Mainzer