

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE FACING NEW VALUE LANDMARKS

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Abstract

Contemporary culture, viewed as specific „social code”, preserving the various forms of human activity, behaviour and communication and handing them down from generation to generation, today faces serious trials. The basic values of technogenic civilization, shaped up after the New Times, are greatly modified in the culture of Modernity (the end of the XIXth and the XXth century). The confrontation of culture and civilization has led to a crisis in values, most strongly reflected in the conflict between „the two cultures”, that is in breaking the balance between the humanities and art, on the one hand, and the mathematized natural science knowledge, on the other. This loss of the „spiritual principle” (to quote A. Camus) in European culture set new landmarks for values in the time of postmodernism (the end of the XXth and the beginning of the XXIst century). We are witnessing the birth of an alternative cultural project for the future, in which the dialogue between cultures plays the role of a means for civilizational development.