

There are two levels traceable in the thesis: The first, more general one, aims to be a contribution to the question of definition of art. The thesis deals with two oppositional approaches to this question. One of them is the theory of autonomy of art, especially as it was introduced by Kant, the other is the so-called institutional theory of art, based in the sociological aesthetics. The thesis concentrates particularly on the arguments against the Kantian theory of autonomy showing its disadvantages and also tries to defend the relevance of the institutional theory as a possible solution to the question of definition of art.

The second, more particular level, follows and compares two conceptions – Jan Mukařovský's aesthetics and feminist approaches to aesthetics. It focuses especially on their attitude to the theory of autonomy, on the way they deal with their common interest – the extra-art values, and on the way they cope with the difficulties we are led to when the theory of autonomy is rejected. This comparison provides an opportunity to show interesting as well as problematic parts of both approaches and their relevance in aesthetics.