

AESTHETICS OF SPORT

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Summary

The brief description of a subject and tasks of aesthetics of sport, its mutual relations with general aesthetics and other aesthetic disciplines, factors of appearance and development of aesthetics of sport is represented.

In this connection, the basic aspects of aesthetic importance of sport are discussed. Sport is characterized as the most important means and a condition of aesthetic education, considered as an aesthetic phenomenon from the point of view of its genesis, internal structural organization and logic of development. The mutual relations of sport and other kinds of aesthetic activity manifest through its staginess, communication with art and design.

1. Introduction

Among sports sciences, aesthetics of sport takes more and more important place.

It can be explained by the fact that aesthetic features are widely represented in sport.

First of all, sport currently is one of the most efficient means and conditions of aesthetic education, cultivation of aesthetic feelings, tastes and needs among great masses of population.

Secondly, aesthetic features of sport are more and more widely manifest as its integral components, and appearance and fast development of such aesthetic kinds of sport, as figure skating, ice dancing, rhythmic gymnastics, etc. testify it.

Thirdly, the modern sport acts as a real show, in which one of the important places is occupied by aesthetic aspects, and organization of sports events requires special knowledge and taking into account laws of aesthetic perception.

Fourthly, for effective functioning of sport the special subject environment, which also should be aesthetically comprehended and mastered, is required.

The aesthetic content of sport manifests more and more as far as humanistic ideals are embodied in it. Therefore, exactly in conditions of a modern democratic society, when each of its members has sufficient possibilities for free and versatile development, in which physical perfection has an important and socially, and personally significant role, beauty of sports becomes one of the most attractive factors of special attention to it and participations in it. As far as sportsmanship of participants of competitions increases and reaches a certain level, the aesthetic side of sport becomes more distinctive and directly influences its development. It manifests in perfection of sports movements, in their technical and composition organization, in high emotional tension of competitions.

Aesthetics of sport has arisen and develops, on the one hand, as a certain aesthetic and philosophical discipline, and on the other hand, as one of sports sciences.

2. General Aesthetics and Other Aesthetic Disciplines

Aesthetics as a philosophical science studies a wide range of phenomena: different manifestations of aesthetic matter (fine, ennobled, heroic, etc.), its reflection in consciousness of people in aesthetic perception, ideas, ideals, views, theories, as well as aesthetic activity of people, leading to creation of aesthetic values.

During many centuries, aesthetics was confined to the art sphere. But actually, the world of aesthetic phenomena, and in particular forms of aesthetic activity, is much wider and more diverse. Aesthetic values are created and perceived by people not only in art, but also at work, in their everyday life, in the most different spheres of human life and activity. Activity «under beauty laws» is inherent to a human being not only when he is interested in painting, music, literature. As a matter of fact, it is peculiar to all forms of his dialogue with the nature and other people.

That is why currently the sphere of interests of aesthetics has considerably extended and left far beyond limits of art, art work. This process is connected with appearance of new kinds of aesthetic activity.

It includes, for example:

- Art design
- Different kinds of applied art human activity, directed to aesthetic formation of surrounding environment, for example decoration of gardens and parks, creation of beautiful bouquets, etc.
- Development of aesthetic aspects in different spheres of work and life
- Actually, human work, everyday life and his environment, all kinds of human activity, behavior of a human, his private world and his image - all these things can be a subject of aesthetic analysis

On the basis of the mentioned, alongside with general aesthetics, there is a widely branched out *system of aesthetic disciplines* including a theory of aesthetic education,

manufacturing-technological aesthetics, aesthetics of everyday life and behavior, aesthetics of the nature, developing complex of art criticism sciences, etc.

The process of expansion of a sphere of aesthetics far beyond limits of art and involving of the most various forms of human activity and aspects of human life in it, naturally, affects a sphere of *sport*.

Prior to scientific-theoretical analysis of sport within the frameworks of aesthetics, it was clear that aesthetic questions must take in it a significant enough place. But only such analysis could answer to difficult and important problem questions in aesthetics of sport:

- What particular place belongs to aesthetic phenomena in sport?
- How aesthetic phenomena of sport are connected with its other structural components?
- In what forms aesthetic activity manifests in sport?
- Whether it is possible to consider sport as art, as one of its components?

All these and other similar questions required analysis of sport from positions and on the basis of principles, concepts, categories of aesthetics.

That is why questions of aesthetic content of sport, reflection of this content in a sphere of aesthetic consciousness and in forms of manifestation of aesthetic activity in sport already at the beginning of the 20th century began to draw attention of scientists, for example, José Ortega y Gasset and T. Veblen. A little bit later, it has been mentioned in papers of J. Huizinga. In Russia, V. V. Gorinevsky, and in the second half of the 20th century A. A. Frenkin, M. Ya. Saraf, V. I. Stolyarov, N. N. Vizitey, etc. worked in the sphere of aesthetics of sport.

However, aesthetics of sports, as a relatively independent area of aesthetic knowledge, is formed only in the middle of the 20th century, when sport is treated as one of the most important forms of the world culture, and when demand for its system sociocultural and humanitarian learning appears.

Currently, the process of separation of aesthetics of sport into a relatively independent aesthetic discipline and a science about sport, different from other aesthetic disciplines (general aesthetics, manufacturing-technological aesthetics, aesthetics of everyday life, etc.) and sciences about sport (sociology of sport, psychology of sport, etc.), actually, has come to the end.

3. Subject and Tasks of Aesthetics of Sport

Aesthetics of sport is a part of philosophy of sport representing aesthetic reflection concerning a phenomenon of sport and studying general aesthetic laws, which manifest themselves in a sphere of sports activity and sports relations and significantly influence development of this area of social practice.

The subject of study of aesthetics of sport is the whole complex of questions, connected with existence, functioning and development of sport from the point of view of its aesthetic content. It analyzes problems concerning a role of an aesthetic side of genesis of sport, mutual relation of aesthetic components of sport and technical qualification of athletes, special features of formation of aesthetic feelings, tastes and demands in the sphere of sport, relation between sport and art work, a place of sport in aesthetic culture of a certain society, etc.

The world of aesthetic phenomena of sport, as well as other aesthetic phenomena, is very complex and diverse.

First of all, it includes certain aesthetic values, i.e. objectively existing features, sides, aspects of sport, which in certain conditions become aesthetically important for people, cause some aesthetic feelings, aesthetic pleasure, and which are estimated by a human from special, aesthetic, point of view.

The personal aesthetic appraisal essentially depends on development of aesthetic tastes, ideals of a certain person, on those or other aesthetic views, theories, which are close to him, on aesthetic categories, which are the basis for him in the process of cognition and transformation of phenomena of sport.

The person with developed aesthetic taste has some aesthetic demands, aspires to create aesthetic values, taking active part in aesthetic activity, which in various forms is represented in the world of sport.

All these phenomena studied by aesthetics of sport can be divided into some groups.

First of all, these are those sides of sport, which make its *aesthetic content*, and, which, being realized and estimated from the aesthetic point of view, act as *aesthetic values*.

Secondly, these are those aesthetic feelings, tastes, demands, ideals, views and theories, which make the world of *aesthetic consciousness*, connected with sport.

Thirdly, this is *aesthetic activity* of a human in a sports sphere.

Thus, *aesthetics of sport* is a science, the subject of which is the following: aesthetic content and aesthetic values of sport; laws of consciousness, reflecting sport from the aesthetic point of view; forms of aesthetic activity of a human in the area of sport.

The aesthetics of sport also touches upon the issues of aesthetic education. But this pedagogical activity is also a subject of study for some other sciences, for example, for theory of physical education, pedagogy of sport, etc.

4. Factors of Appearance and Development of Aesthetics of Sport

In the process of development of sport, it became more and more important phenomenon of social life and culture. Now millions of people all over the world actively go in for sport, perform physical exercises, participate in sports competitions.

The sport of supreme achievements intensively develops. Mass sport, different forms of physical activity of people (including health-improving jogging, conditioning to cold environment, cross-country skiing, swimming, tourism, etc.) are very popular. Today sport is socially important, as never in the history of humankind. It is no coincidence that sport is often named one of the basic elements of a system of values of modern culture, a mirror of public life. Owing to the mentioned factors sport must become a subject of aesthetic analysis.

However, especially important role in appearance and development of aesthetics of sport is played by its aesthetic content and aesthetic significance.

It is possible to specify, at least, three aspects, from which the aesthetic significance of the modern sport manifests to the greatest degree: sport as a means and a condition of aesthetic education, sport as an aesthetic phenomenon, i.e. a ratio of aesthetic and functional in development of sport itself, and a ratio of sport with other kinds of aesthetic activity.

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Biographical Sketch

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