

What is the Section for Literary Arts and Humanities?

The Section for Literary Arts and Humanities is also known as the Section for Beautiful Sciences. It is a young discipline that has only existed since the 1800s. Science and beauty, knowledge and creative imagination are brought together in this section.

Science focuses on the universal and on identifying the laws of science. The creative, the artistic, brings the individual to the fore. Through the work of this section and the methodical connection of both, scientific knowledge is returned to a human context and the arts are freed from limitations of the single individual. This enables us to overcome the one-sided development tendencies of our time.

Our fields of work and research are: Literature and literary theory, linguistics, aesthetics, history, philosophy, music history, art history, cultural studies, poetics, puppetry, dramaturgy, mythology, storytelling, folktale research, folklore, language translation, journalism and essay writing.

Central to this work is the research of the Logos, the Word, in ways appropriate to our time. The task therefore was and is to build a living bridge from Art to Science, but also from Science to Art. This bridge leads to the creation of artistic thought – Imaginative Knowledge. Rudolf Steiner points out that this imaginative knowledge is 'inwardly so thoroughly exact [...] as previously only mathematics and mechanics could be.'¹

As colleagues we are called upon to create a new art capable of forming a bridge to a new science of spirit, uniting the artist and the researcher within one human being.

Iris Curteis, PhD
Coordinator

¹Rudolf Steiner, Lecture June 3, 1922; GA 83, Dornach 1981, p93