

Abstract

The study aimed to characterize the types of artists' identity conflicts and strategies for dealing with them. The research was carried out based on a constructionist approach using a qualitative method. The basic empirical material consisted of 37 in-depth interviews with artists. Moreover, the survey used existing data, mainly reports, analyses and biographical materials.

During the examination of the collected research material, it was established that artists' identity conflicts are a complex and multithreaded issue concerning internal personality predispositions and external socio-cultural aspects. The identity conflict of artists is influenced, among others, by the quality of relations within the artistic community, competition for a position in the environment and on the art market, social expectations regarding the role of artists in the contemporary world, breaking the continuity of meaning within the language and cultural heritage, relations with the external environment, or conditions of access to economic capital. Therefore, the identity conflict of artists is structural, which is indicated by the numerous relationships between the causes of the conflict and the socio-cultural aspects of the functioning of this environment in the social structure. Consequently, four basic types of artists' identity conflict were distinguished, i.e., self-esteem, sense of independence, position in the environment and access to resources, and the corresponding strategies for counteracting them. The types of (ideal) identity conflicts above-mentioned intertwine, somehow overlapping each other in various situations of the everyday functioning of art creators.

In addition, it was observed that the reaction to identity conflict is necessary and results from achieving an appropriate level of (emotional, intellectual) maturity. As a result, it is possible to openly search for a solution to a problematic situation, a contradiction within one's identity towards its redefinition. The method of reacting to an emerging identity conflict should be defined as an individual issue, dependent on environmental, cultural, social, and personal conditions, and thus specific to a given situation. Its essence ultimately boils down to addressing the critical value of the subject of the identity dispute, because of which the shape of one's identification is modelled. Thus, in practice, it implies either resignation from specific identity attributes or their inclusion.