

**Gestalt** (German - Gestalt)

Organized wholeness, distinct from the background, differentiated from inside. The main characteristic of Gestalt is that it cannot be reduced to the sum of its parts. Think of a melody, as an example. No melody can be reduced to the sum of its constituent sounds or the sum of their proportions [M. Wertheimer]. Just in the same way the scent of rose cannot be reduced to the sum of constituent smells. The content of the text cannot be reduced to the sum of the meanings of linguistic units – words. The melody, the scent of the rose as well as the content of the text are the examples of Gestalt [see also **inborn Gestalt – images**].

The main characteristic of Gestalt is its wholeness. Gestalt has the qualities that are not the qualities of its compounds. However, there are other diffuse entities in the psyche [F. Krueger, W, Stern]. Differently from them and primary syncretic wholeness, Gestalt is not homogenous. It is internally differentiated.

The concept of Gestalt was mainly developed in the framework of Gestalt psychology. This concept has been elaborated and used in Gestalt therapy in a specific way.