Toam Semel: Daily Laughs: An Aesthetic Experience or a Quotidian Work of Art? Tel Aviv University

Philosophers have long struggled with the ever-elusive subject of The Comic, with different approaches attempting to grasp its many facets while capturing its unique quality. In this paper, I will first present the debate surrounding one approach, which views the comic as a type of aesthetic experience, focusing on the idea of 'detachment.' I will then propose my alternative, viewing the everyday comic event not as a disinterested subjective experience, but rather as a *work of art*, which we create and take part in, in our daily lives.

Using Heidegger's conceptual framework of the artwork, I will examine everyday examples of humour (which will be my main focus, as opposed to the comedic artform), and demonstrate in what way viewing the comic as a quotidian artwork considers overlooked facets of the phenomenon. Most importantly, it will uncover the comic's nature as an instance of truth, which both steps out of everyday existence, and sheds light upon it.