

Abstract

The Master thesis has for its objective mapping of destiny of czech community in Paris from sixties to eighties. Its purpose is not to get a complete list of all artists, who came to Paris. It's just a selection of those important persons, who broke through Paris. The personal interviews play an important part of the sources. The thesis is not structured in medallion-biography way, but it is lined up in a thematic way. Most of the artists handled in their new home country with similar problems and situations. First theoretical part characterise the period, the environment, the czech-french relations and the general phenomena of emigration in the czech historical memory. In sixties the czech-french relations started to be reanimated and many french art critics visited Czechoslovakia and they wrote about czech art. Beside France, the czech emigration refuged in sixties largely to West Germany, United States of America, Canada, austrian Wien, Swiss and nordic countries. Individuals art centres were connected to others by friendships and artists visited themselves. Second and more extensive part of the thesis works with the oral and written interviews. The respondent artists are Miloš Cvach, Roman Kameš, Karel Machálek-Zlín, Miloslav Moucha, Vladimír Škoda, Ivan Theimer and art historian Jana Claverie. We figure out from the interviews, why they decided to go to Paris, even after losing the statute of major art metropole after the war, like it was in twenties. Some of them came to study, some others emigrated after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. Apart from this emigration there used to live in France czech old residents from pre-war period. Next to practical questions of housing and living the new comers should take care of their place in the society. They united themselves to czech associations and the editorial offices of *Testimony* and *Revue K* played an important part in the czech community. Jiří Kolář, a head editor of *Revue K*, was one of the magnets of the czech social life in Paris in eighties. The key question of this thesis is how the art work of these artists changed after their arrival to France. The artistic scene in Paris was favourable to young art, nevertheless there was a big competition too. That includes the practical questions of having an art studio for work, about galleries and art critics who show their art works. Jana Claverie made efforts to present czech art in the Musée d'Art moderne de la ville de Paris and in the Centre Pompidou. The last but not easy question is the return from emigration.