

Abstract

The primary aim of the following master's thesis is analyzing the relationship between the Italian cultural and economic early 1900's context and the futurism movement. In the initial chapters we presented to the reader an introduction to the context, first through an analysis of the Manifesto medium and later through the European cultural and economic context itself. Subsequently, we shifted our focus to the heart of the matter, namely the relationship between the early 1900's Italian context and futurism, by examining its behavior in 3 narrative media (literature, theatre and cinema). The analysis showed clearly how the Italian cultural and economic context did not present itself as fertile ground for the birth and rise of an avant-garde.

The following step consists of offering to the reader two benchmarks, namely the behavior of contemporary Italian mainstream art and the context, in which the French avant-gardes were born a decade later, shedding light on how avant-gardes, commonly tied to a certain notion of independence from the contemporary context, are in reality heavily dependent upon it. The conclusion we reached is how a lack of a set of determined contextual factors can have considerable detrimental effect on the development of an avant-gardes, as happened to the futurism in the Italian context.

Key words:

Futurism, Italian art industry, avant-gardes, cinema, theatre, literature