

## **Abstract**

Mark Ther is a remarkable figure of Czech art. He dedicates himself to a wide range of artistic expression (films, drawings, installations, etc.). He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where he began making his short films. His work is associated with video art and queer cinema. No monograph has yet been written about Mark Ther. Published texts (catalogue introductions, interviews, etc.) are mainly devoted to his artistic activities. In this work, I focus on his short films, which are thematically clearly anchored in history. He has set his films for more than a decade in the past, to which he responds with the present. Still, the subjects Ther addresses are always very personal to him. He often draws on his own experience, or the history of his loved ones. History and the past are a reservoir for Ther, a treasure trove of human destinies. In my work, I deal with the reflection of history in his historical films. I'm looking for connections and their differences. As important as the historical stages, there are particular historical figures in Ther's films. These are both widely known figures (e.g. Maria Callas, Charles Baudelaire, Klaus Mann, Mitsuko Ajoama and others) and "small histories" of his relatives, or unknown "heroes". Ther's work with history becomes a particular play in which the author subtly manipulates the viewer. In this sense, in a number of his films, the character of the narrator plays an important role as well as transpersonality, mutual relationships of the characters, the mizanscene, and the use of music.

## **Key Words:**

Key words: history, reality vs. fiction, videofilm, personalities, installations