

This thesis is based on the assumption that a dream is “thinking in pictures” and as such can result in unchained and free artwork. Nevertheless, we conclude that authentic dreams in the form of pictures and text were not found before Albrecht Dürer’s work. On the other hand, artistic concepts of dreams generally used the symbolic language of timeless oral tradition over the centuries, supported by Greek myths and stories of rich Hebrew oral tradition. This work emphasises the lack of preserved monuments and the process during the time that Greek culture was adopted by the Romans. It mentions works of art inspired by dream formation, quotes Greek and Roman philosophers’ beliefs on dreams and clarifies the formation of the allegoric method of interpretation that affected the medieval approach to dreams. It presents Early Church Fathers’ concerns in relation to dreams through which the human mind can be controlled by both God and Satan. The chapter on medieval narrative picture cycles explores in greater detail established picture schemes where in addition to biblical dreams, papal and royal dreams are also presented. From the 12th and 13th centuries, works of art associated with dreams and new Franciscan, Carmelite and Benedictine orders were created. The Renaissance period opens with a reminder of lasting medieval approaches to dreams in the visions of women saints and witch hunting that were contrasted with the Renaissance paintings of Sleeping Venus, through which Plato’s idea of sacred and profane love became more important, representing a poetic dimension of female nudity. The last chapter deals with an extraordinary event in the history of art, proving unprecedented syncretism by names such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raffaello, who contributed to shaping a universal renaissance person. Renaissance pieces of art dealing with dreams that originally drew strength from the archetypal harmony of Neo-Platonism were slowly flooded with anxiety caused by a clash with the Reformation. Together with Albrecht Dürer and his dream heading towards self-definition, we enter into a new era where space is given to individual dreams.