

The thesis *Gates to the Unknown* is concerned with the theme of doors and gates in art, spanning the time from ancient civilizations through the 20th century. In the times of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome funerary art prevails, with doors depicted on tombs and sarcophagi. A great deal of emphasis is placed on the biblical parables and scenes where the doors symbol occurs, containing a certain message. The scenes include for instance the Virgin Annunciate and the Last Judgement with its gates of Eden and Hell. The thesis also examines the changes in the concept of doors in the era of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classicism, where we meet the doors motif as a part of tombstones again. In these eras, as well as in 19th century art, the symbolism of doors slightly steps back. An individual part of the thesis follows doors and gateways in paintings of the 15–17th century Dutch masters, and their interiors full of mostly open doors that carry hidden meanings. The symbolism and a different understanding of the element of doors became widespread in 20th century art. From this period there have been selected pieces of artists such as René Magritte,

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Marcel Duchamp and Salvador Dalí, but also artwork of the Czech artists, Jakub Schikaneder and František Muzika. In the whole thesis there is an emphasis on the connection between fine art and literature.