

Prague Pub - Inspiration for Czech Art of the First half of the 20th Century

A pub means an important place for a life of the Czech society. Especially a Prague pub is world-known thanks to its specific atmosphere. Czechs meet each other regularly there to comment the news above the pint of beer; they meet there to tell each other stories and jokes. Bachelor thesis deals with an influence of the atmosphere of the pub on the modern artist. It observes their reasons to choose this theme and how had they presented its influence in their works.

In the beginning the thesis aims at the theme from the perspective of sociology. It is considering a position of the pub in the Czech society. The pub has had this position since the time of the National Rebirth in the 19th Century. Patriots used to meet each other in the pub. The thesis continues with a brief listing of the most important pubs of the first half of the 20th Century; especially the places closely connected with some art societies. The next part considers the position of the pub in the life of the modern artist.

The modern artist started to focus to City and its atmosphere. The pub is one of the symptoms of the City. The artist themselves have spent a lot of time in pubs. They had several reasons: lack of money, a chance to study face-play and gestures of other guests and to rebel against bourgeois society. They could see the man of his day in his typical background in the pub. In their work they could show him like this. The thesis tries to show alternative views of a pub – the artist had not painted just a typical loud Czech pub full of barflies. Sometimes they use the background to give us much deeper message. They show us great drama and intimate emotions.

The bachelor thesis divides into three periods – before the World War I, in the interwars period and in the time of an occupation. In the first part the thesis target on the works of the Osma, where we can see the transform from a genre to the modern concept of the pub. In the second part is follows the work of František Foltýn, Antonín Procházka, Tvrdošíjní and especially Josef Lada with his illustrations to Švejk. The time of an occupation represents Karel Černý with his existential bars. We can see the change of a pubs atmosphere and of a way artist have seen it in the first half of the 20th Century.

Klíčové pojmy / Key words

- Pub
- Modernism
- Prague
- Figural Art
- 20th Century

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