

ABSTRACT

After the fall of communist regime in 1989, in Czech countries many art groups appeared (e.g. Luxus, Bezhlavý jezdec, Kamera Skura, Pode Bal, Guma Guar, Ládví and others).

The art group Rafani was founded in 2000 by former students of the Fine arts academy in Prague. From the beginning its activities were focused on artistic reflection of social problems and phenomena, especially of local character (Nazi holocaust and Sudetenland, the rise of ultraright parties, forming and perception of democracy etc.). Rafani are operating at the background of strong theoretical platform and clearly given methodical and fundamental bases. The group is often called as politically engaged and its actions are perceived as controversial. Today is one of the best known and most respected subjects on Czech artistic scene.

This thesis describes monographically the ten years' history of the group Rafani. The introductory chapters are focused on the issues of terms political and engaged art, its brief history and progress in world as in Czech art. Based on the theoretical background of the art group Rafani, the thesis illustrates the principles and methods of its work, such as the ideological basements of its actions. It assesses the progress of the themes and artistic media from the art historian way and attempts to classify the group to the context of similar artistic activities in Czech countries and abroad. In this relationships it is concerned mainly on the groups Pode Bal, Guma Guar, Kamera Skura and Ztohoven.

Part of the thesis is formed by the list and analysis of the group's actions, which has never been published completely. The catalogue is mapping the period from beginning of the group till the newest activities. Individual actions are ranked chronologically, confronted with available materials and art historically interpreted. This part is also completed by other activities of the Rafani group and by the list of all former and contemporary members.