

**Abstract – Tomáš Kavka**

**Supporting the Arts...**

**Art Societies of Central Europe in the Context of the 19th Century's Social Modernization**

This dissertation focuses on the changing relations between society and art in the course of the 19th century. It observes the development within three cities – Leipzig, Prague and Brno – exponents of three different national environments. The thesis is based on the comparison of art societies representing these environments. Leipzig-based society Leipziger Kunstverein is a probe into the world of German art, Umělecká beseda of Prague demonstrates the quest for continuous development of Czech national artistic discourse and Brno's Mährischer Kunstverein is an example of the specifics of German community ringed by Slavic majority in Moravia.

The thesis presents a view of Central-European artistic life, heavily determined by the dynamics of the 19th century's social modernization – the formation of civic society and national movements as well as the change of social discourse (namely concerning aesthetics and art history) about fine arts and its performers.