

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis deals with illustrations to Kytice ballads by Karel Jaromír Erben. It is divided into two parts. The first section is focused on relations of the illustrations and the collection of poems as well as the historical context and the context of other painter's works. I try to point out that Diviš's illustrations do not represent a new artistic stage but a synthesis of his previous works from the forties. In addition, the illustrations are closely connected with the artist's own destiny.

In the other section of my thesis I analyse individual illustrations from the point of view of their different technics and motives. Another aspect follows relations between the illustrations and contents of respective individual poems.

To sum up, the thesis aims to introduce Diviš's unique collection of illustrations as an existential message of an artist stricken by his fate; that goes beyond ordinary illustrations for the ballads of the greatest Czech romantic poet.

## **KEY WORDS**

- Illustrations
- Mythos
- Ballad
- The Specter's Bride
- Jan Zrzavý
- Emil Filla