

Abstract

One of the main goals of this thesis is to map and describe the events which resulted in the Auguste Rodin's exhibition in Prague 1902 and its impacts on the Czech contemporary artistic scene. First chapter shortly focuses on the evolution of often complicated relationship between Paris and Prague and its connection to the exhibition. Following chapter elaborates on the preparations which took place before the actual exhibition, such as the steps which had to be taken by the Manes Association of Fine Artists to make the event happen (mutual correspondence between Stanislav Sucharda and Auguste Rodin, unique issue of the magazine *Volné Směry*, Prague municipal's delegation visit at Rodin's studio in Paris, Josef Mařatka's involvement in the organization of the exhibition etc.). Next chapter continues to describe the steps which had to be taken before the grand opening to general public. Fifth chapter covers Rodin's arrival to Prague and the most important items of his agenda, which had been prepared for this significant French sculptor. Second, and substantial, part of this thesis elaborates on the fallout caused by Rodin's work and his visit to Prague and the various means that local artists came up with when trying to deal with it. This part of the thesis not only includes the basic range of critiques of Rodin's work and his personality published mostly in contemporary periodicals (F. X. Šalda's notions, K. B. Mádl's critiques etc.), but also maps the influence of Rodin's work on Czech artists, especially sculptors. A great number of art pieces inspired by Rodin's innovation are represented by a few examples of high-quality art (namely the work of Josef Mařatka and Bohumil Kafka, Rodin's disciples, pieces of Jan Štursa from the Twenties and drawings by Otakar Španiel). Final chapter concludes the thesis by introducing the case of the sculpture *Bronze Age* which is generally connected with Czech lands, namely Prague. This thesis also includes the list of Auguste Rodin's pieces as it was presented in the official catalogue of the exhibition in 1902.

Key words: Auguste Rodin, Manes Association of Fine Artists, Josef Maratka, Turn of the 19th and 20th Century, *Bronze Age*, Sculpture, Prague, Paris