Abstract

Mythological Themes in the Work of Joseph Heintz the Elder.

This Bachelor's Thesis is primarily focused on the analysis of nine mythological paintings made by Joseph Heintz the Elder, one of the most prominent court painters to the Emperor Rudolf II. Whilst the introduction describes the cultural scene and the economic situation of the 2nd part of the 16th century, the main focus of attention is on the art in the Emperor's Court, followed by the painter's biography: in its framework his development as an artist as well as his works in the field of architecture are observed. The main topic of this thesis is the analysis of singular works. The emphasis is put on the literary works on which the paintings are based on: Ovid's Metamorphoses and Apuleius novel The Golden Asse. Firstly the is described, followed by an overview of the basic information (origin and dates) and a formal analysis highlighting the differences between the visual adaptation and the literary input. Finally, attention focuses on the alegorical sense of the myths which is often not clear at first sight. In order to explain this, the commentary of the Italian version of Ovid's Metamorphoses written by Giuseppe Orologgi was used.