

Abstract

This thesis examines the Temptation of Saint Anthony in the last quarter of the 19th century in France and Belgium. By analysis of particular art works it shows the variability of iconography and complexity of the Temptation theme which reflects the contemporary relation to religion, history, science, exoticism, eroticism and other areas, which man living in the era of great changes was confronted with. The importance of "The Temptation of Saint Anthony" by Gustave Flaubert is emphasized as an inspirational source for fine arts and on the general level the relation of text and visual presentation is discussed. The final part of the thesis dealing with "fin de siècle" art references the metamorphosis of the Temptation of St. Anthony in literature and fine arts as well as historical, social and religious relations in the context of which the character of Saint Anthony gradually became a permanent part of French culture.