

## **Study of self-presentation of artist in the Italian painting of the 16<sup>th</sup> century – abstract**

Italian art of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, known as the Cinquecento, is undoubtedly a captivating chapter of art history. No less interesting are the lives of artists from that time, the understanding of self-value and its presentation, creating the artist's identity, i.e. their "artistic self".

Within a century we may observe the transformation from a craftsman to an artist, and subsequently artist- the courtier. The main representatives of this "movement", trying to raise the status of arts and artists in the society, were **Giorgio Vasari** and **Federico Zuccari**. Each represented a different generation of artists; however, figures of both these painters are complemented in a curious way. There are moments when their lives meet and, in a certain way, follow one another. It is one of the reasons, why the connection Vasari-Zuccari is suitable for understanding social situation or the self-presentation of central Italian artists in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is almost as if this duo was representing a fictitious art figure of the Cinquecento, whose life began 1511 (with the birth of Giorgio Vasari) and ended in 1609 (with the death of Federico Zuccari) and by studying this figure we discover the development of artists' self-concept and the struggle for a better status of an artist in the society.

This thesis aims to introduce paintings by these two artists, in which they were trying to present their own personalities.

This work tries to demonstrate that the selection of themes chosen for self-presentation is intertwined with the individuality of the painter's personality, his life, practice and experience in the course of the time, which carries the transformation of the artist's social status.