

Abstract

This diploma thesis focuses on the topic of the gradual development of European art exhibition institutions whose modern stage dates to the early 19th Century and continues to the present. The characterization of the beginning of this modern phase is generally associated with the commencement of establishing first public art museums. The thesis will outset from this period in art history and focus on the linear evolution of art exhibition institutions to its present form. The thesis comments on an institutional change of exhibition space which is not perceived as a separate and socially independent process. On the contrary the work puts this gradual transformation into social, political and cultural contexts. Through the topic of modern institutional criticism the thesis moves to address contemporary European trends which severely affect the very specific environment of Czech exhibition institutions. The primary institutional structure, which was formed by the public demand and national unification, is here put into context of the current Czech situation which in response to the current official art institutions reacts by establishing small galleries which operate on a community basis.