

Abstract

Like newspapers, books, cinema or music, fine art is a medium of human communication, and the carrier of a message. Its role as a specific means of communication has transformed throughout history, along with the role of mass media. Before the rise of mass communications across all of society, this function was to some degree facilitated by works of art. A work of art is itself a medium of communication, while at the same time it can also represent other media – in various stages of the evolution of arts and culture the mass media themselves became the subject of art. This can be defined as the meta-communication of one medium with another. The present dissertation focuses on the research and work of Czech artists engaged with visualizing the means of mass-media communication (periodicals, radio, television) and its actors (the recipients and producers of media content). The relevant works of art for this thesis (paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures) are the focus of a qualitative analysis resulting in an overview of the evolution of this subject matter since the advent of mass media, i.e., from the emergence of the first printed periodicals to the 1960s. My dissertation *The Media as a Theme in the Arts Across the History of the Czech Media* approaches the topic as historical research viewed through the perspective of media studies.