Abstract

Identity after Historical Change. Anti-Hitler Emigration of Fine Artists from Germany and Czechoslovakia to Great Britain (1933–1945).

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This dissertation thesis deals with a group of German and Czechoslovak fine artists (Erich A. Bischof, Kurt Lade, John Heartfield, Ludwig Meidner, Heinz Worner, Bedřich Feigl and Karel Vogel) who decided or were forced to exile from their home countries to Great Britain after Hitler came to power and stayed there during the Second World War. Research methods adopted from historical anthropology, approaches used in exile research and identity theory have been used to examine the impact of the extensive historical change on their personality as well as "artistic identity". A key area of the research is the period of 1933–1945, however, the lives of the artists before emigration have been outlined too.