

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation deals with sepulchral artworks of Franta Úprka (1868-1929), the Czech sculptor. At first his life is described. Franta Úprka was born in Kněždub, south-eastern Moravia. Beginning of his artistic activity belonged to the end of 19th century, when he worked as an assistant of two famous Czech sculptors – A. P. Wagner and Bohuslav Schnirch. His own career took place in the first two decades of the 20th century. Name Úprka is best known for Joža Uprka, Moravian painter and Franta's elder brother. Although Franta Úprka lived and worked in Prague from 1890th, the midpoint of his artistic interests and main theme of his sculptures was depicting people, traditions and subjects from his home country, Moravian Slovakia. Moravian Slovakia was specific part of Moravian countryside full of long lasting and still surviving folklore, folk traditions, peculiar vivacious characters and intact nature. As Auguste Rodin said during his visit of Moravian Slovakia in 1902 it was kind a Greek Helada overflowing with bright colours, sunshine and cheerful relaxed atmosphere. On the other side, common people lived there their uneasy rural lives with all ordinary worries and pleasures. Both sights of the issue were solved by Úprka's artworks. Very specific and the most significant part of his chef-d'oeuvre is created by his sepulchral realisations that implemented to funeral plastic art brand new topics corresponding with themes from Moravian Slovakia. For the first time Franta Úprka used ethnographical topics, women figures of weepers in regional costumes. He depicted them in such expressive gestures full of painful lamentation or deep sorrow as well as in the moment of silent praying. Less often Úprka used figure of man to declare right feelings about sepulchral sculpture and rarely children. These sculptural gravestones are located all over the Czech Republic with two important epicentres - Prague and south-eastern Moravia - and a few are also placed in Slovakia and Slovenia. Description, location of all Franta Úprka's sepulchral artworks and their putting into historical, cultural and artistic context constitute core of this diploma thesis.