

**Abstract:**

This bachelor thesis focuses on the reception of empathy and understanding of the direction of humanistic photography, the mission of which after the Second World War was the reflection of destiny of the human race. The main problem, that I will reveal is how empathy for the motives and emotions affects human perception of photographic images that reveal human joys, sorrows and desires.

This problem is exemplified by the historically famous exhibition "The Family of Man" curated by Edward Steichen. This paper presents research of empathy mechanisms from the points of aesthetics and psychology. The findings are then used to study the culmination point of humanistic photography, the exhibition "The Family of man", its visual composition and reflection.