

# **The Printmaking of Czech Art Informel**

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## **Abstract**

The thesis deals comprehensively with the printmaking of Czech Art Informel: explores its sources, principles and themes, evaluates contributions of individual artists and analyses the technique of “structural printmaking”. The first artworks in Informel style in Czechoslovakia were created during World War II by Josef Istler who belongs to European protagonists of Art Informel movement. In post-war years Istler engaged mostly in painting and monotyping. For this reason it was Vladimír Boudník who became the leading personality of Czech Informel printmaking. In 1949 he declared in two manifestos of “explosionalism” his vision of a new art that he followed and carried out with admirable consistency till the end of his life. In the middle of 1950s Boudník started to elaborate “structural printmaking” – innovative printmaking methods that became a way to fulfil his vision. His work influenced strongly the whole generation of Czech artists and essentially helped to introduce Art Informel to Czechoslovakia against the ideologic resistance of the communist regime. Czech Informel achieved excellent qualities in Europe-wide comparison and “structural printmaking” became its original contribution to the world fine art.

## **Keywords**

Art Informel, abstract expressionism, Czech printmaking, structural printmaking, Vladimír Boudník, explosionalism