

**Keywords**

*The Znojmo altarpiece, Znojmo, Church of St. Michael, Dutch realism, Jakob Kaschauer*

**Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with the Znojmo Altarpiece, dated from 1430–1440 and now being exhibited in the Austrian Gallery Belvedere. Thesis is intentionally divided into two topics. The first one is the critical evaluation of the present literature, the second topic interprets the Znojmo Altarpiece itself. This evaluation is based on a specific fine art and visual value of the altarpiece connected to its sociocultural environment for which it was made for: the Church of St. Nicolas in Znojmo city. The complexity of the theological program of the piece is also analysed, as well as its connection to a supposed donor, Duke Albrecht II. of Germany of the House of Habsburg. Thesis deals with the motives of duke's order including the choice of the carving workshop originated in the artistic environment of Bavaria, which was completed by the domestic Viennese painting workshop. In terms of its artistic style, both the painting and carving style of the alterpiece are putting into context of the Bavarian and Viennese contemporary production. The relationship between the origins of the Znojmo Altarpiece and the painting work of the Master of the Fridrich Altarpiece and the sculptural work of Jakob Kaschauer are also examined and criticized.