

Abstract

The aim of this diploma thesis is to introduce the relatively unknown societies of Pohodlí and Karel Hynek Mácha. The groups were formed in the 1960s as a reaction to the state of the broader society in the then Czechoslovakia, which was thoroughly controlled by the Communist regime, both in the socio-political and cultural spheres. A number of similar groups were formed in the cultural sphere of the country. The activities of the members in these discussed societies focused on the organization of thematically motivated meetings in the fields of visual arts, literature, and poetry. Although their members resisted calling these events performances or happenings, and formulated them more as attempts to respond freely, lightly, and humorously to the curious relationship of state power to the more general role of culture in society, their activities can be seen as a very intense and idiosyncratic effort to destabilize this pressure to the best of their ability, at least for themselves. Spolek Pohodlí (The Society of Convenience) continues to meet today, due to the enduring friendship of its living members and their efforts to preserve the continuity of the group's artistic output. Given the 56-year-long existence of the society and the large number of members who have participated in its various artistic engagements, it is not possible to cover the entire history and work of each individual in the scope of this thesis, and therefore I will base my research on nine artists whose work often extends more broadly into the realm of other artistic disciplines. I will conduct interviews with most of them to introduce them more closely. Methodologically, the research will further rely on work with written and visual sources from the personal archives of the members of the societies, relevant literature, and internet sources.

Keywords

Society, Pohodlí, KHM, art, members