

ABSTRACT

The exile visual art scene in Bohemia and its subsequent activities abroad, 1933–1945

The development of the political situation in Germany during the thirties of the 20th century, when the Nazi Party was radicalizing and Adolph Hitler's power gradually became unlimited, meant a danger not only for the political opponents of Nazism. Artists who work didn't meet the criteria of the new aesthetic or even engaged in its detriment, had to seek for asylum. The First Czechoslovak Republic became one of these refuges.

The Czech-German art scene was a significant aid for the integration of the refugees into the society. Some of its personalities returned to their birthplace for similar reasons as anti-Nazi refugees. Czech-German conditions provided to emigrants an opportunity for active continuing of the struggle against Nazi regime, also with a backward impact in Germany. But the support by the Czech population and the state went through series of changes under pressure of Nazi German government and the growing influence of the Sudeten areas. Artists with the status of refugees were obliged to follow a set of state regulations and orders, which often bureaucratically confined their creative activity. Nevertheless, some of their artworks, contacts and memories show their positive attitude to the Czech environment and culture.

In addition, the conclusion of the work offers new insights into how the Czech interlude in the life of emigrants influenced their artworks after they were forced to seek for a new asylum in other countries after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Germany. It also brings new knowledge about what significance have evolved their relations with Czech artists they met again in abroad. Their overcoming of personal difficulties in their life and preferring the art before their safety increases the value of their art creation and brave struggle against Hitler's policies.