

The Czech Art Nouveau sculpture is represented by several leading figures, most of them graduates from the Specialist School of Figural Sculpture of Josef Václav Myslbek, among which Stanislav Sucharda ranks. He is well known mainly thanks to the monument of the Czech historian František Palacký in Prague and to a large number of plaques and medals. His works from the sphere of architectural sculpture which are decorating many newly-constructed Prague buildings remain unnoticed.

He specialized in the decorative sculpture since he was a student and all his works were immediately favourably received. He collaborated with many renowned architects during his life. The most intensive and inspiring was his partnership with the architect Jan Kotěra in his early Art Nouveau period.

This study deals with the questions concerning decorative sculpture and his role in the period building practice, as well as the influence of the School of Applied Art and its teachers on architects and sculptors and the approach of public and private architects and sculptors themselves to this theme. The main task is to make up a list of Sucharda's decorative sculptures created for new public buildings, private villas, bridges, fountains, temporary exhibition pavilions and others.

Stanislav Sucharda (1866-1916) was born in Nová Paka in a family, where the craft of sculpture had a long tradition. He was the son of the sculptor and carver Antonín Sucharda, whose workshop concentrated on restoration and gilding of church statues and other pieces of church equipment. His talent was inherited by almost all his children, in addition to Stanislav it was his sister Anna and brother Vojta.