

## Abstract

During the 16th century occurred a new phenomenon, that the physically disabled people because of their visage were presented as curiosities or miracles. Some cases were so incredible therefore their appearances gave an impulse for creating an artwork. The images were popular between all social levels, were collected by townspeople, scientists, nobles and kings.

The dissertation thesis „*Homo deformis*“. *The fascination by appearance of deformed human body in the Czech lands between 1526–1620* aims to explore how the phenomenon of human curiosities was reflected in early modern visual art in the Czech lands.

This dissertation thesis bases on individual examples of human monstrosity in various art forms as in portraits, allegories, scientific illustrations and pamphlets.

It examines images of abnormal disabled people between 1526–1620 and focuses on their symbolic meaning, aesthetic interpretation. It summarizes the knowledge about perceptions of depicted abnormal persons in 16th century. It also shows the Early modern society reactions about „*homo deformis*“, their everydayness and social status.

This thesis studies reasons why the disabled body was a kind of an inspiration for artists. It examines if the artists of 16th century were able to picture cases of physically deformed bodies anatomically correctly. It also focuses on the iconographic motive of the monstrosity and the problem of abnormal disabled people in 16th century.