

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the topic of the Festival of Arts in Shiraz, which took place in 1967–1977. The question asked by author asks is whether the festival could function as an autonomous art zone or whether the art scene was intertwined with the socio-political climate of Iran at that time. Using theories of collective and historical memory, significant festival events are analyzed and placed in a broader historical context. Both positive and critical reactions to the festival are examined. As the Festival also enters into contemporary cultural debates, this bachelor thesis focuses on the controversy between two curators who take opposing positions on the festival. The author concludes the thesis by noting that the festival did not take place in isolation from political events; rather, it was a symptom and later a catalyst of the complicated social tensions in Iran in the second half of the 1970s.