

Abstract:

This Bachelor Thesis is going to analyze the representation of fine arts at a festival called *Festival of Britain* in 1951, which took place in different cities and towns all over The United Kingdom.

After World War II The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland suffered extensive damages. Terror and devastation of war have projected themselves in the second half of the 40s into everyday life of British society, which thought it is never going to recover from this traumatic reality. Exactly for that reason an event was to be organized, which would have given the citizens of The United Kingdom back their confidence and which would boost the British spirit together with the idea, that the British society can get over the postwar era of decline and insecurity. Therefore the *Festival of Britain* should have represented everything, that the British people were able to do even after such a deep wound – from science inventions, new technological achievements, orchestral concerts, to contemporary painting, sculpture, architecture and applied arts. *Festival of Britain* became the so called *Beacon for Change* – a symbol signaling the beginning of a new era. This festival belongs to key events of postwar British history and at the same time it is one of the factors that contributed to the renewal of faith in better future all over The United Kingdom.

This Bachelor Thesis aims to attempt to create a complete guide of the art exhibits and artworks, which were presented at the *Festival of Britain*, especially at the *South Bank* site in London. The Bachelor Thesis is going to concentrate on the primary idea of organizing the festival, individual artists, who took part in the festival, and especially the significance of the art exhibitions and their reception by the festival visitors. In this Thesis the author is also going to attempt to shortly introduce the artistic situation from 1945 to the festival and the impact *Festival of Britain* had on the development of fine arts in The United Kingdom in the second half of the 20th century.

Key words:

Festival of Britain 1951, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, british postwar art, World War II, South Bank exhibition