

Abstract

This master's thesis aims to explore the body of documentary and photographic work by Marie Tomanová, a prominent Czech photographer who has spent more than a decade living in the United States. Tomanová is now an established part of a long-standing tradition of American documentary photographers who seek to capture the emerging young generations and their culture.

In its theoretical part, the thesis will provide a brief history of youth culture in American society from the beginning of the 20th century all the way to the early aughts. It will explore the context in which photographers have depicted youth culture since the mid-20th century, with a particular focus on Marie Tomanová's work as one of the most prominent contemporary representatives of the genre.

The practical part consists of a visual social semiotic analysis of selected photographs by various photographers introduced earlier in the thesis. The analysis will attempt to decode the fundamental values encoded within these photographs of young Americans, compare any changes in these values over time and also focus on differences in approach among the individual authors. Finally, this thesis will attempt to place Tomanová's body of work within the lineage of American documentary photographers. The results of these analyses will be interpreted in the conclusion of this thesis.