

Abstract

The bachelor thesis will focus on the depiction of insects by the Flemish painter and graphic artist Joris Hoefnagel, who, among other things, worked as a miniaturist at the court of Rudolf II from 1590 and was one of the first to deal with this topic systematically. This thesis will focus specifically on his work *Archetypa stvdiaqve patris Georgii Hoefnagelii*, which was first published in Frankfurt am Main in 1592. I will ask questions about the symbolic or philosophical significance of the work and to what extent it is more of a scientific diary. The core of the thesis will be preceded by chapters that place the work in its historical and cultural context. They will briefly discuss the meaning of insects in ancient sources (Aristotle, Pliny) and in medieval sources (Physiologus, Isidore of Seville), giving examples of contemporary depictions and explaining their iconography. Furthermore, I will attempt to capture the understanding of insects in 15th and 16th century artistic culture in general, which will serve as a broader basis for the interpretation of Hoefnagel's work.