

Abstract

Depictions of Saint Francis of Assisi at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries: a comparison of artworks from Italian and Danube regions, taking into account the importance of the landscape painting

This bachelor thesis focuses on the iconography of Saint Francis of Assisi in a selected artistic circle at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. The text is divided to three parts. The first part introduces the subject of Franciscan iconography, presenting the life, work and legacy of Saint Francis in a broader context. The second part focuses on specific examples from northern Italy (especially Venice), southern Germany and Bohemia, with a specific focus on works belonging to the so-called Danube School. Particular attention is paid to the typology of depictions of Saint Francis. It includes both the transformations of the Stigmatization of St. Francis theme and, for example, the much-discussed Ecstasy of St. Francis (Canticle of the Sun) by Giovanni Bellini. I discuss the works by Albrecht Dürer, Albrecht Altdorfer as well as the Vitae Patrum manuscript from the Czech region (National Library of the Czech Republic). This thesis attempts to answer the question of whether there could have been a connection between the depiction of the theme of St. Francis and the current development of landscape painting in the mentioned artistic circle and at the given period.

Keywords

Saint Francis of Assisi, 15th and 16th century, painting, typology, iconography, landscape, Italy, Germany, Bohemia