

Abstract

The doctoral thesis *Czech public art collections and the acquisition policy during the normalization era* deals with the topic of domestic institutional operation in 1970s and 1980s, with specific focus on activities of galleries incorporated in the national, hierarchically organized network of art institutions.

The research of these acquisition activities uncovers composition of the works of art acquired this way. It finds aspects in which individual institutions differed and detects the reasons behind these differences. Besides the acquisition process itself, the thesis also outlines the circumstances of establishment of the gallery network and summarizes its activities in more tolerant 1960s based on various material sources and oral history. The acquisition policy of galleries as such is analysed in the thesis covering the period from the beginning of the year 1970, when the resolution of the turning meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in April 1969 started to be fulfilled, until the end of the year 1989. Geographically, it is limited to the Czech territory.

The results obtained by the analysis point out fundamental differences between individual institutions and between regions in which they operated. The results bring answers to questions concerning representative shares of different genres and topics in acquisitions, their correspondence with the quality of acquired works, questions of how the authors of different generations and opinion groups are represented and, finally, whether the composition of authors and their work corresponds with officially presented art production. The conclusions reveal changes in the institutions themselves as well as the changes in the structure of professions associated with these institutions. The thesis contributes to clarification of the contemporary mechanisms and ties between party, state and trade union authorities on one hand, and the galleries themselves on the other hand at the general level. The conclusions also provide clues for further research.

Key words: acquisition, gallery, gallery network, institution, cultural policy, normalization, fine art