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# Abstrakt

The doctoral thesis "Kitsch as an aesthetic choice. Remarks on selected phenomena in modern and contemporary art" is both: a research and artistic project, consisting of a theoretical and an artistic component, which are interdependent and form a logical whole.

The research paper presents how the understanding of the phenomenon of kitsch in aesthetic terms has developed in relation to the changes that are taking place in society, from the first decades of the 20th century to the present day. Particular attention is paid in this context to the phenomenon of mass culture and the characteristics of the late capitalist period. The argument is based on the views of selected theoreticians, such as: Theodor W. Adorno, Clement Greenberg, Hermann Broch, Walter Benjamin, Susan Sontag, Sam Binkley and Celeste Olalquiaga. The dissertation analyzes selected social changes in the period marked by the accelerated economic development. The thesis indicates the complexity of the accompanying phenomena of mass culture in relation to the concepts of the circus, monarchy and sleep. Each of them is being analyzed based on selected examples in modern and contemporary art. A dynamically changing social and economic structure was proposed as a common ground for each phenomena.

In the artistic component, artistic realizations that contribute to this project have been placed in the form of photographic documentation. The direct source of inspiration for the paintings were the three phenomena of the circus, monarchy and power in relation to mass culture. Thus, the works constitute an artistic commentary on the described issues, which has been explained in more detail in the findings of the dissertation.

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