

Silesia and Bohemia. Common Paths of Art (Warschau 19-23 Apr 06)

International Conference

"Silesia & Bohemia. Common Paths of Art"

Wroclaw - Legnica

19 - 23 April 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for abstracts: 15th Nov. 2005

In 2006-2007 the exhibition entitled "Silesia, a Pearl in the Bohemian Crown. Three Periods of Flourishing Artistic Relations between Silesia and Bohemia" will be introduced. The exhibition will be organised both by the Museum of Copper in Legnica and the National Gallery in Prague together with the University of Wroclaw at the Museum of Copper in Legnica (22nd April - 8th October 2006) and in the Wallenstein Manege at the National Gallery in Prague (9th November 2006 - 8th April 2007). The topic of the exhibition showing works of art from the epoch of the Luxembourg dynasty, from the time of the reign of Rudolph the II. and from the Baroque period of the flourishing Silesian and Bohemian abbeys and residences will correspond with the accompanying conference taking place at the Institute of History of Art at the University of Wrocław in Wroclaw and Legnica.

The historical position of Silesia in relation to Bohemia can be called specific. Bohemian rulers as well as Polish kings and princes had laid claim to that region since at least the 13th century. Since the first half of the 14th century the majority of its territory remained within the borders of the Bohemian crown. At the beginning of the 15th century Silesia managed to resist the religious revolution shaking entire Bohemia. Afterwards, the land was flourishing along with its capital Prague and the other lands of the crown in the Early Modern Period. Eventually, it became the main reason for the wars in the 18th century which in consequence established a new order in Central-Eastern Europe. Since those times, though divided, it has constantly been an example of a region of decisive political, economical and cultural meaning for all of the neighbouring countries.

Studies on mutual cultural relations between Silesia and Bohemia have mostly been interesting for researchers of many humanistic disciplines. Recently,

their significance has even increased. The latest syntheses on the common history of the two regions and their common heritage of literature and culture in its most general meanings as well as monographical studies establish the basis of the modern comprehension of the common historical and cultural identity of Silesia and Bohemia. Artistic activity and works of art themselves have always been a noticeable value of exceptional importance in this context.

The research-inviting atmosphere and constantly growing interest in common origins of art in both regions led to the necessity of organising a forum which will enable extensive and complex research on historical and contemporary artistic relations between Silesia and Bohemia. The aims of the conference are: introducing, summing up and discussing the latest research on various aspects of the common paths of art in Silesia and Bohemia by art historians, art critics, historians, culture historians and other representatives of humanistic disciplines.

The conference is intended to extend both the topic and the chronological frames of the exhibitions in Legnica and Prague. First of all, the chronology goes beyond the three above mentioned periods. The matter of the discussion ranges from pre-historical and early medieval traces in Silesia and Bohemia to mutual relations in modern and contemporary art of both regions. The topic will vary from different aspects of painting, sculpture to architecture and crafts. It will focus on problems of guest activities of Silesian and Bohemian artists in both regions, their travelling, education and mutual reflections. The bilateral stylistic influence in works of art and the artistic imports are also of great importance. The questions of Silesian-Bohemian ecclesiastical and secular patronage, the matter of artefacts being material evidence of parallel history of both regions as well as pictorial types Silesian and Bohemian art have in common will also be considered. Hence, the main stress will be put on related elements, underlining the sources and characters of common artistic inspirations rather than pointing out the autonomous elements in Silesian and Bohemian art.

The languages of the conference will be Polish, Czech, English and German. We are also planning to open the exhibition in Legnica at the time of the conference and, eventually to edit the papers as a book. The sent-in proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the contents merit according to their accuracy with the general programme of the conference. Please send proposals with an enclosed Word for Windows digital version of the abstract, not more than 1800 characters.

Organisation:

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