

Vytautas Kairiūkštis: aesthetic, ideology and the dilemma of (non)conformation in the post-war soviet occupation period

Summary

This article is based on the analysis of the life and oeuvre of Vytautas Kairiūkštis – a famous pre and post-war Lithuanian vanguard artist and art critic. The analysis is divided into two relative conceptual points. On the one hand, the life and oeuvre of V. Kairiūkštis are examined through the socio-cultural and ideological periods of both the inter-war and soviet occupation. The dilemma of (non)conformation in the early period of soviet occupation is one of the crucial conceptual questions whilst analyzing the late oeuvre of Vy-

tautas Kairiūkštis. On the other hand, the less radical national vanguard version of the inter-war expressionist movement is taken into account as an alternative model which partially contradicted V. Kairiūkštis' cosmopolitan vanguard version. Also, the functions of these two versions of vanguard in the post-war soviet's period of occupation are compared. It is agreed that the more radical version of the inter-war vanguard of V. Kairiūkštis was more brutally suppressed than the less radical version of national expressionism.

Keywords: Vytautas Kairiūkštis, cosmopolitan vanguard, national vanguard, interwar vanguard, soviet art, dilemma of (non)conformism.