

National cultural identity in Soviet Lithuania: visual artists case

Summary

This article is based on the analysis of the so called notion of “national cultural identity” in Soviet Lithuania. “National cultural identity” in Soviet Lithuania was usually associated with three sociocultural phenomena. The rejection and/or ignorance of “Soviet reality” was one of the imaginary ways of protecting and developing so called “national cultural identity”. Second way of protecting this image of identity was identification with so called “(past and present) model of Western culture”. And finally, the third level of “national cultural model” was associated with the projection

into the “great history” of Grand Duchy of Lithuania and prewar Lithuanian Republic.

Obviously these models of protecting and developing “national cultural identity” could be taken as conditionals models and notions. The main problem is, that these notions were composed, formed not just in Soviet times, but also are still forming as a new sociopolitical notion in the context of a new political conjuncture frame. In conclusion, one can say that “national cultural identity” cannot be regarded as a fixed phenomenon in the past. It could be taken more as an ambivalent notion in the present.

Keywords: national cultural identity, Soviet Lithuania, visual artists, inner resistance, collaboration, past and present understanding, ideology.

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