

Could Not be Told, But Newertheless Depicted Memory

Summary

The article discusses the difficulties of understanding and interpreting the Soviet era, and raises the importance of the perception of the Soviet way of life to elicit the deeper meaning of works of art. Thus, pictures can depict disguising and conceal depicting. We can only describe the most common experiences and living memories of the atrocities of pre-war Sovietization and deportations, German occupation and massacre of Jews, post-war partisan struggle and mass deportations. Some of the paintings of Vincas Kisaraukas and Jonas Švažas are considered in terms of the could not be publicly expressed living memory of the atrocities and deportations of Soviet occupiers. The author emphasizes and analyzes the historical narrative of the post-war resistance to the Soviet occupation hidden in Kisaraukas' paintings. This action should be considered as a clear artistic manifestation of anti-Sovietism, which is diminished by

the prevailing attitude among art scholars to include the artist within the framework of "nonconformist". In the *Pietas* of Švažas, which are full of Christian symbolism, references are made to deportations as well as to the tragedies of the German and Soviet occupations that the Lithuanian nation has endured. The questions are put how it was possible to perceive those paintings at that time and how they are or can be perceived currently. The author states that perception depends on the changing content of living memory and social knowledge, as well as on the ability of social strata to comprehend that content. It is noted that during the post-war period the natural transmission of living memory was interrupted, making it difficult for young people educated in the Soviet school to grasp some of the creative allusions and encoded meanings of senior artists and thus to become more aware of the historical narrative.

Keywords: living memory, Lithuanian modernism, perception of the picture, remembrance, Soviet era, Soviet occupation.