

Eva Lapinska

Art Academy of Latvia

The semiotic aspects of 20th century totalitarian regime commissioned visual arts

As a part of my doctoral studies, I have taken a look at the specific, politicised, ideologically limited art, architecture and education processes of the totalitarian time (1935-1959) in Latvia, the USSR and Europe as a whole.

Finishing off the last phase of this three years long thesis work, I have turned my attention to the semiotic, iconographic and psychologic analysis of the central European totalitarian regime influence on the collective and individual consciousness, attitude and political standing of the general public within USSR, Germany, Spain and Italy, as well as partially in Latvia (1935 - 1940).

Since the created aesthetic paradigm of totalitarianism as a political system is easily identifiable, comparative semiotic analysis is one of the rational types of research with which to compile and evaluate the art, and architectural heritage in different countries, as well its influence on different cultural processes in post-war Europe until today.