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Contradictory Space. Monumental-Decorative Art in Late Soviet Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 1975-1985

The aim of my PhD dissertation is to research monumental-decorative art of late Soviet Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Methodologically I draw on the theory of “performatives” as defined by J. L. Austin and in this instance further developed by Alexei Yurchak and Mechtild Widrich. The study of socialist images has led me to scrutinise Soviet culture and society at large. I use Henri Lefebvre’s *The Production of Space* as a framework to delve into the core of socialist space as a distinct historical phenomenon. I have decided to include case studies from three Baltic countries in order to achieve a transnational perspective. Besides research into the art history and visual culture of late socialist culture I delve into the afterlife of these images in post Soviet years and analyse the way contemporary artists have activated the genre and concept of monumental painting.