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The Institute was founded as a Centre in 1953, and from 1957 it was known as the Institute of Theory and History of Art of the Czechoslovak Academy of

Sciences. Its current name was adopted in 1990. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute carries out research on the history of Czech art and architecture, especially Czech art from the Early Middle Ages to the present. Special attention is paid to inventories of works of art in Prague and in the Moravia and Silesia regions, as well as to corpuses of, e.g., medieval wall paintings and illuminated manuscripts. The multi-volume *History of Czech Visual Arts* has been completed (11 volumes, 1984-2007), and work is continuing on several encyclopaedic projects and on other long-term research projects, including background research for major exhibitions.

The Institute publishes three journals: *Umění* (Art), founded in 1953. *Estetika* (Aesthetics), founded in 1964. *Studia Rudolphina: Bulletin of the Research Centre for Visual Arts and Culture in the Age of Rudolf II*, founded in 2001.

Within the Institute operates its publishing house Artefactum which specialises in scholarly publications.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:  
**<http://www.udu.cas.cz>**