

# **Activity program for the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, for 2018–2022**

The Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IAH CAS) is a public research institution contributing significantly to the knowledge and protection of European cultural values. Its main task is systematic research in the history and theory of fine art including architecture, urbanism, art criticism, historiography, aesthetics and historical preservation. The research covers a wide time span from the Middle Ages to the present day and concerns both Czech and international art. Scholarly projects are usually collective and are based on the cooperation between scholars from individual departments of the institute. The institute often works with other institutions and departments both locally and abroad (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, etc.). In 1998, IAH CAS became a co-founding member of the RIHA – an international association of research institutes in the history of art. The attained results of the Czech institute, comparable in quality to similar institutions in developed countries, push the level of knowledge and education forward and play an essential role in practice, for example, in the field of historic preservation or during the preparation of exhibitions in museums and gallery institutions.

## **Ten research priorities of the IAH CAS**

### **1. Changes in the functions of the art work**

The project draws on previous, long-term research of art history in the Czech lands published in eleven volumes as *The History of Czech Fine Art* (published by Academia 1984–2007) and a single volume of *The History of Art in the Czech Lands 800–2000* (published by Arbor vitae and Artefactum, Czech and English). The new project focuses on examining the changing function of the art work in political, social, cultural and religious contexts. Between 2013–2017 IAH CAS worked on the project *Imago, imagines: Changes in the Function of Medieval Art in the Czech Lands*, supported by the Czech Science Foundation (the main outcome, a collective monograph, will be published in 2019). In the upcoming period, the department of Early Modern art, focusing on the Renaissance, Mannerism and the Baroque, will build on this research. Drawing on the same research, the department of art of the 19th–21st centuries will focus on new themes and issues found in art due to changes related to the emergence of modern society and shifts in the status of art since 1800 to the present time. The research, carried out with the support of grants if successful, will result in several studies between 2018–2022 and will lead to the production of two collective monographs, creating a complete series together with the book on medieval art. Publication of the two monographs is planned after 2022 and will rely on financial grant support.

### **2. Theory and historiography of art history, a critical edition of art history sources**

In 2018, a two-member team specializing in the theory and historiography of art history was founded in the IAH CAS and thus research began which has not been carried out

systematically in recent decades. In 2019 IAH CAS plans to expand the team with two more scholars. The main focus of the research, which will continue to expand, is the critical interpretation of several key themes: the Viennese school in the Central European context, the theoretical concepts of Oldřich Stefan, the historiography and methodology of art history in the Austrian Empire before 1848, etc. Since the issues are international in some cases, the institute plans to involve scholars from abroad. The outcomes will be contributions at conferences (organized by IAH CAS in odd-numbered years) and in scholarly publications. IAH CAS will systematically continue to make the art history sources available through critical editions. An edition of the *Dictionary of Art (Artists) Working in Bohemia* by Jan Jakub Quirin Jahn is planned (with expected cooperation with the National Gallery in Prague) as well as lecture texts by Karel Chytil as documentation of the method of teaching art history in Bohemia. The IAH CAS will professionally organize the translation of important theoretical texts from foreign languages, which will be published by a reputable Czech publishing house.

### **3. Art history topography**

The main task of the art history topography project continues to be the creation of a catalogue of art monuments in Bohemia, Moravia and the Czech part of Silesia. The work is based on long-term field research and detailed study of sources and literature along with the use of the newest documentation techniques. In 2018–2022 the research will lead to the completion of the edition series *Art Monuments of Moravia and Silesia* (Umělecké památky Moravy a Slezska, vol. IV, R–Ž) and preparation of the manuscript for publication. IAH CAS will then publish the older yet still unpublished *Catalogue of Monuments of the Archeological Commission* (Soupisy památek Archeologické komise) (one or two of the volumes for the counties Žatec, Jičín and Strakonice). First the main approach will be defined and preparation of the standard volumes of the *Catalogue of Art Monuments in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* (so-called county catalogues) will be prepared following the older “county topographies”, which ceased to be published in 1937, yet presented in the most modern and internationally up-to-date way. We will also begin work on the preparation of a digitalized version of a complex catalogue of monuments in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, which will allow the public to access updated knowledge and new findings from the topographical research of Czech cultural heritage. The results should be an open and systematized database of art objects, connecting professional passages of text with photographic and digitalized drawn documentation. It will also be possible to link the database according to location with other IAH CAS databases (photography, printmaking, plans, epigraphy) including digital maps.

### **4. The work of art between the patron and the artist: the transformation of this relationship from the 11th to the 16th centuries**

The theme is covered by several sub-projects, carried out by scholars from the department of medieval art, which will research medieval art works in the changing social context with an emphasis on the transformation of the patron’s role and the functions of art works. These group projects will include scholars from other institutions as well as from abroad. The department will seek to obtain financial grant support. The projects will focus on research of previously neglected themes, or themes that need to be rejuvenated and updated: Romanesque art in Bohemia, the medieval image of the real and heavenly Jerusalem in the Czech lands, the issue of the Beautiful Madonnas style as a Czech and European phenomenon, the Bohemian prayer books, and research on female piety in the Czech lands. One long-term goal is research on the art of the Lusatia region from the 12th to 16th centuries, which will be included in an

international grant competition in the future. In this project specifically it is possible to consider the involvement of the Early Modern art department and shift the time frame to the Baroque period.

### **5. Art at the court of Rudolf II and his collections**

The research will draw on a long tradition of thematic and international studies in Rudolphine art, carried out in the IAH CAS in the Studia Rudolphina centre. It is closely related to the current project of GAČR *Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol (1529–1595) and his Cultural Patronage between Prague and Innsbruck (2017–2019)*, which has already had great results and will conclude with a collective monograph. The main task of the center will be to examine the Rudolphine collection including the Kunstkammer – its content, composition, functioning and context in European collecting of the late Renaissance. The outcome of the project will be a foreign language publication about the Kunstkammer at Prague Castle, most likely done in collaboration with the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien. A sub-project will be research in the iconography of alchemy and the occurrence of alchemical motifs in fine art. An integral part of the activity of the research center is to provide editorial work for the bulletin *Studia Rudolphina*.

### **6. Baroque painting**

Research in Baroque painting currently includes the systematic documentation and study of fresco and oil painting in the Czech lands, interpretation of the art produced within the wider geographical context, and follows the concurrent discourse about the social function of art, including issues of social status of the artist in the Early Modern period. This is ongoing scholarly research, the results of which have been published and have received international respect. In 2019, a three-year-long project supported by the Czech Science Foundation will come to the end, *The Idea and its Realization: the Art Culture of the Society of Jesus in the Czech Lands*, which will result in an English language monograph. As with other recently completed projects on Baroque fresco and oil painting in the 17th century, specialized themes conceived as individual studies will lead to a larger synthesis, possibly supported by financial grants. In cooperation with the Institut für kunst- und musikhistorische Forschungen, ÖAW, and an international team of authors, a monograph will be published which will focus on the issue of parochial churches and their decoration in the Early Modern period (*Die barocken Pfarrkirchen un ihre Dekoration: Ein neues Feld der Forschung*). Another project will be a publication focusing on the Baroque All Saints Church in Heřmánkovice (Broumov region) and an interpretation of its decoration in the larger context of European monastic culture in the 17th and 18th centuries; the book will be realized together with the aid of students of art history and restoration. An essential part of the research will be a project dealing with the concurrent practice and theory of Baroque mural painting.

### **7. Photography in the 19th and 20th centuries**

In 2018 a Centre for Research in Photography will be established in the IAH CAS. It will provide for research in photography of the 19th and 20th centuries with an ambition to become the main focus of interdisciplinary research and cooperation in the field of photography in the Czech Republic, with close links to international scholars. The main theme of the centre for the time period of 2018–2022 will be “Photography and Reproduction” (the photographic reproduction of works of art, mechanical reproduction with daguerreotypes, the

first photomechanical use of reproduction, and photographic duplicates). This issue has already been dealt with in current projects of the Czech Science Foundation and NAKI, focusing on two subjects, calotypes and the work of Josef Sudek and its digitalization. We expect that the research in photography of the 19th century and Sudek's work will also continue after the projects are concluded, in 2019 or 2020. In addition, the scholars will focus on another topical issue (e.g. the work of Jan Svoboda). A special focus will be placed on the research and application of image documentation and also to the technology and restoration of photographs and works on paper.

## **8. Documentation and interpretation of art exhibitions in the Czech lands between 1820–1945**

The issue of the presentation of fine art, its public acceptance and use in political contexts has been a significant topic in art history research of the last years. The first step of the IAH CAS project will be creating a database of important art exhibitions in the Czech lands between 1820–1945. The research does not cover the second half of the 20th century as this issue has been researched at the Science and Research center of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, with whom IAH CAS will cooperate. The database will collect and make available materials about key exhibitions (catalogues, image documentation, reviews, etc.) and will allow for their further processing. In addition to the Academy of Fine Arts we count on cooperation with the Archive of the National Gallery in Prague, Náprstek Museum, the Museum of Decorative Arts and other institutions. Processing often difficult-to-access materials, mainly those from the 19th century, will allow for other scholarly projects in this area. The project will involve external cooperation (students, doctorate students) and partial financial support from grants and other non-institutional sources.

## **9. History of Czech historical preservation in the context of the European cultural milieu**

This long-term goal requires the implementation of partial thematic research projects and their final synthesis. In 2018–2022, research will focus on the years 1945–1958, that is from the end of World War II to the adoption of act no. 2/1958 Coll. pertaining to cultural monuments, which had a significant impact in the area for many decades, the consequences of which can still be seen to this day. The act is also of primary importance for the research of provenance in the collections of many state institutions. This issue is related to the completion of the NAKI project *Searching for the provenance of personal cultural effects belonging to German citizens in the North Bohemian Region, nationalized in 1945*. Other expected outcomes will include: a critical edition of Zdeněk Wirth's texts about the theory and history of historical preservation, an international conference on the development of historical preservation in the second half of the 1940s and into the 1950s in Czechoslovakia and surrounding Central European countries, an exhibition entitled *The National Cultural Commission and the Care for Nationalized Cultural property after World War II*, and texts devoted to particular aspects of the examined issue and activities of selected key figures working in the field at the time.

## **10. Epigraphic and sepulchral studies**

The Epigraphica et Sepulcralia centre, unique in the European context, will develop its existing programme, including scholarly, methodological, documentation and coordination activities in the field of sepulchral studies and medieval Latin epigraphs, as an “auxiliary science” of art history. The research will focus mainly on the time period from the beginning

of the 16th century (the Czech Science Foundation project *Monumenta mortis: Artistic Sepulchral Sculpture of the Czech Middle Ages* and other projects). A catalogue of the Czech inscription fund before 1350 will be produced. IAH CAS intends to continue to organize annual interdisciplinary international meetings on the theme of sepulchral monuments and to maintain the structured epigraphic database (founded in 2016), suitable for future applications in the digital humanities. The use of the database is considered as interdisciplinary (art history, history, historical preservation, epigraphy, campanology, genealogy, etc.).

## **Strategy AV 21**

With its motto “peak research in the public interest”, Strategy AV21 has proven to be an effective tool for supporting interdisciplinary projects and making quality scholarly research available to a wider audience. IAH CAS is involved with three programs: Europe and the State: between Barbarism and Civilization, Communication Forms and Functions, and Memory in the Digital Age. The employees of IAH CAS are individual researchers working on particular themes, some of which are coordinated. IAH CAS intends to continue in these activities. The many outputs include a publication concerning the relationship between the private and public spheres, organizing the international conference Photographic Histories in Central and Eastern Europe, and an exhibition about art during the era of Václav IV. Strategy AV 21 will lend qualitative support to the infrastructure of IAH CAS, which allows for access to documentation sources (see Access to information, documentation sources and library collections).

## **Publishing activities**

IAH CAS will continue its publishing activity at the current rate. As far as journals are concerned, it oversees the publication of the bimonthly *Umění/Art* and the annual *Studia Rudolphina* and co-publishes the periodicals *Convivium* and *RIHA Journal*. The editorial plan of the publishing house Artefactum will continue to be the responsibility of the international publishing board and will mostly deal with publishing research results of the employees of IAH CAS. The publisher will continue to put out the *Fontes historiae artium* and *Epigraphica et Sepulcralia* series. The print production has a standardized form of distribution in the Czech Republic and sells abroad as well (amazon.com). Publishing on-line remains open access. With the foreign language books published by Artefactum, closer cooperation with foreign publishers and distributors is desired to increase the sale of books abroad so that local knowledge would become more accessible in international research.

## **Access to information, documentation sources and library collections**

The main goal is to continue to allow on-line access to the documentation and collection funds of the IAH CAS with the SW FileMaker database system, and, in the case of the library, the Aleph database system. This is related to digitalization of all the funds of the institute and optimization of the existing technical solutions of the web interface of the databases, the



export of data for secondary information portals (project INDIHU, etc.) including the possibility for continuous automatic harvesting of the metadata (xml and other.). This is connected to solving problems concerning copyrights and property rights and other intellectual property rights, that are part of the material, in line with the current legal structure. The funds of IAH CAS will continue to be cataloged, interpreted and made accessible to Czech and foreign researchers in the study halls of individual departments. IAH CAS counts on the increased involvement of volunteers and trainees, consisting mainly of art history students and PhD students, who will participate in processing and archiving the funds and completion of the databases.

The main task of the library will be the subsequent conversion of the name card catalogue to the electronic Aleph database, linked to the General Catalogue of the Czech Republic, thus improving the service to remote users and enabling the interlibrary lending service. The plan is also to process the collection of magazines for the electronic database.

The main task of the bibliographic department will be the development and maintenance of the Czech art history bibliography. The database of magazine entries from the 19th and 20th centuries related to art history and architecture will be made available electronically.

## **Lecture and conference activities**

Lectures and conferences organized by IAH CAS will continue as one of the primary activities for presenting the scholarly results of the current research, both Czech and abroad. IAH CAS intends to continue with two regular lecture cycles: Collegium historiae artium and Middle Ages in Motion, again with the active participation of scholars from abroad. IAH CAS will continue to hold and co-organize international and local conferences and workshops, both individually and on a regular basis (Pilsen symposia on 19th century issues, Conference on the issue of sepulchral monuments, a new conference about the theory and historiography of art history). IAH CAS will support presentations by its employees at conferences held by other Czech and foreign institutions.

## **Education and cooperation with universities**

The existing cooperation with university education will primarily be improved through closer involvement with doctoral study programs. In 2017, IAH CAS and the Faculty of Philosophy of Palacký University in Olomouc signed an Agreement on the Cooperation in the Doctoral Study Program of Theory and Art History. The agreement will lead to creating common accreditation for the program, so that students will be able to pass part of their study requirements at the partner workplace of the CAS. IAH CAS is preparing a similar agreement and form of cooperation in doctoral studies with the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University in Prague. At the same time, lecture activities of the IAH CAS employees will continue at other universities or schools of higher learning, including disputations of doctoral, master's and bachelor's theses. IAH CAS intends to continue organizing and awarding two student scholarships: Scholarship of Kateřina Dušková and the Dr. Alfred Bader Scholarship for doctoral students for research in European art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the 20th century (thanks to the support of Bader Philanthropies, Inc., and in cooperation with Czech Association of Art Historians). The institute will continue to be concerned with finding successful and qualified postdoc students for the Support of Perspective Human Resources

program at the CAS departments. IAH CAS will also continue to be active in the Open Science initiative and organizing internships for art history students.

## **Popularization and relation to the public**

IAH CAS is aware of its key role in the popularization of scholarly work and the need for finding effective forms of presenting research results to the public. For this reason, the institute will create a new work position for coordinating and implementing these activities. Regarding presentation of the results, the institute will strive for closer cooperation between the popularization departments of CAS and media communication of the head office of CAS. It will continue participating in regular actions such as Science Fair and Week of Science and Technology, within which it holds an Open Day at its offices in Prague and Brno, as well as the well-attended cycle of introducing architecture and art decoration in historical objects called Art History Face to Face. The results will be publicized on the IAH CAS website, which will have a new look in 2019, on Facebook, exhibitions in the Window Gallery, and lectures for the wider public, given by institute employees at a number of museums, galleries and to the mass media. In this regard it is important to improve cooperation with regional institutions and events taking place outside of traditional venues.

## **Financial resources and their usage**

The main source of financial funds for IAH CAS continues to be the institutional support from the founder. As in the past, surplus resources gained mainly through grant competitions are the most important source. Employees will be motivated to apply for grants, including European ones, to support their long-term research. Less significant financial resources continue to include earnings from sales of self-published publications, provided services (reproductions of photographs, etc.), donations, and sponsorships. The overall financial policy should securely provide for long-term scholarly and publishing projects, running the library and other services, and maintaining the research environment.

## **Personnel policy and wages**

IAH CAS will continue its efforts to attract a larger number of younger and middle-aged researchers who will take over the tasks of their older colleagues. The targeted search and support of “new talent” is implemented directly at the university level where employees of the IAH CAS teach, by providing scholarships and internships and the creation of research positions through the use of grant projects. Employees near retirement age are mostly part-time workers, which means they are limited in their ability to engage in large-scale academic work. In progressive and deliberate steps, while still maintaining social decorum, their hours will continue to be reduced.

Regarding wages, the aim is for them to gradually increase so that the academic average can be reached in the medium term. Of course the success of this strategy will depend heavily on the conditions of the state budget and on the amount of funds allocated to separate sections of the CAS as well as other budget needs and naturally on the results of the international

evaluation of the IAH CAS for the years 2015–2019, which will take place in 2020 for CAS as a whole.

## **Spatial requirements**

IAH CAS is the third co-owner of the building on Husova-Jilská streets. The part of this facility used by the IAH CAS does not currently meet the needs of the institution. It will be necessary to solve the issue of suitable office space for newly employed scholars and storage areas (in addition to the actual physical space there is also a need for data storage). Protection, optimized storage and material processing depend on it, as well as the productivity of restoration work, and, last but not least, important acquisition activities of the IAH CAS – in addition to the library and photo archive this includes the art historians' belongings, materials for research work of the institute and complementary units and files in the existing collections (e.g. historical photos and prints). Together with these issues, the work and technological development of the photography and restoration studios must be taken into account. In 2018, the management of the institute will create a strategic plan as a long-term solution to these problems.