

## MORAL REFLECTIONS OF SOCIALIST REALISM IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

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**Research field:** Visual Arts V 000, Fine Arts V 002

**Research purpose.** The purpose of this study is to identify the influence of socialist realism on society, and to determine the reflections of social performances formed by socialist realism in today's society.

**Keywords:** discourse analysis, phenomenology, social plays, Socialist realism

**Research Methodology.** The work uses the methods of phenomenological philosophy and methodological approaches typical to discourse analysis.

**Findings.** From today's perspective, socialist realism is difficult to assess unambiguously. As far as previous studies can be seen, there are more categorical assessments, sometimes even radical, claiming that socialist realism was a period of complete cultural, value and aesthetic regression, which crushed many promising artists, destroyed individual aesthetics and turned all art into sentimental kitsch for the masses. However, such an unequivocal assessment of socialist realism creates the image of a very simply understood art current, which certainly could not be said about socialist realism. Therefore, it is very important to mention that this current of art, of course, although it was repressive in nature, used for propaganda and control purposes, changed throughout its existence. Due to its constant change, the current of art also included the general culture of society, where people adapted to the desire and opportunities to please and suit the government and the future plan dictated by it. Due to the repressive nature of the society, it was necessary to be able to adapt, therefore the social dramas born in the presence of the Soviet era are still felt in today's society. We can say that moral decline or immoral decisions in the Soviet era were covered by the principle of various social masks, many of which are still present in our society today.

**Originality.** In recent decades, an increasing attention of researchers to the culture and art of the Soviet era has been observed in Lithuania. Literature, art and music are systematically studied and described, chronologically reviewed and re-evaluated already conducted studies. However, there are paradoxical situations in the field of teatrology research - in order to develop contemporary studies of the Lithuanian socialist realist theater, the authors are forced to examine the studies carried out in the Soviet era and to reevaluate them, critically evaluate them due to the potential supervision of censorship and other control institutions that operated in the Soviet era. It is noticeable that there is still a significant lack of systematic and new research on the theater of socialist realism in Lithuania.