

Abstract

What Sex is a Female Worker? Analysis of the Symbols of Socialist Realism

The aim of the book is to thoroughly examine socialist realism from a completely new perspective. In the publication, socialist realism is presented as an art movement, which served not so much propaganda purposes as a political myth, for which socialism was recognized. The monograph consists of two main axes: it analyses the symbols of socialist realism and presents its exact genesis in a mythical perspective (the author attempts to prove that socialist realism, which is the pinnacle of Soviet socialism, acted according to the same principles as a myth or fairy tale, as demonstrated by the structural analysis used in the book), and tries to define a role of gender opposition in the movement (not only a role of a woman or an iconic female worker, but also a man and an iconic male worker). The synthesis of these two aspects is the analysis of symbolism of the movement presented in the author's gender interpretation based on four points placed on the coordinate axis: male/non-male and female/non-female intended to correspond to given symbolic values.