

THE LANDSCAPE OF HUMANISM

Assoc. Prof. Radmila Iblova

DAMU, Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, **Czech Republic**

ABSTRACT

The landscape is the place on earth where life can exist. Life in the landscape significantly shapes people and influences their existence and personality. The peaceful life of man in the landscape, which he transforms by his good deeds, creates the landscape of humanism. It is thanks to St Francis of Assisi, the author of the text "Cantico delle creature" (Canticle of Creatures), written in Assisi in 1224, that the landscape becomes admirable for man. This song is an admiring celebration of the 13th-century landscape of central Italy in which St Francis lived, where he made a significant impact on his surroundings, and which he walked extensively during his lifetime.

This saint, who is not mentioned in the Bible, reawakened man's interest in art. The Franciscan motto "Spiritualità, cammino, arte" (Spirituality, journey, art) freed young artists from the obligation to submit to the Holy See and its biblical artistic canon, which had not yet addressed the authorship of artists. By his fate, St. Francis inspired the interest of artists and patrons to seek new art forms. For his sake, young artists seek their inspiration in the landscape of humanism, which best represents this man's destiny.

The names of young artists who begin to work with the landscape of humanism become part of their artworks, and these works become their calling card. The distinctive creative abilities of young artists in the landscape of humanism begin a new chapter in art history, where the artist gains social prestige through their own abilities and distinctive artistic expression.

The artistic center of the landscape of humanism becomes the Florentine Republic and Florence. The significant successful commercial success of this republic in 13th-century Europe ensured Florence's exceptional architectural and artistic flourishing throughout the city, which was financed by the citizens themselves. The desire of the Florentine merchants to invest in modern architecture transformed Florence into one great building site, where the need for artists was essential to the realization of this prestigious vision.

Keywords: St. Francis of Assisi, Florence, Coppo di Marcovaldo, Cimabue, Charles IV.

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The landscape of humanism represents the area of central Italy in the 13th century where St. Francis not only lived, but where he was able to promote his faith and way of life, called the "Rule of St. Francis", to two popes and get their written approval. Francis' tumultuous life experiences, his unexpected life decisions and vocation were embraced not only by his mother, his loved ones and the wider community, but also by the highest leaders of the Western Church hierarchy and the Muslim world. Immediately after the canonization of St. Francis by Pope Gregory IX in 1228, artworks, painted on wooden panel in tempera and gold, began to emerge in the landscape of humanism, representing Francis' life story. This man's exceptionalism turned the attention of the Holy See to the interest in other saints whose life stories would soon become artistic subjects.