



ÚSTAV DĚJIN UMĚNÍ
AKADEMIE VĚD
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY, v.v.i.

Husova 352/4, 110 00, Praha 1, Česká republika
t [+420] 222 222 144 f [+420] 222 221 654
e udu@udu.cas.cz w www.udu.cas.cz
IČ: 6837 8033 DIČ: CZ 6837 8033
Bankovní spojení: ČSOB Praha, č. ú. 131 166 131 / 0300

Kancelář AV ČR
Odbor podpory vědy
Národní 3
117 20 Praha 1

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Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the Commission No. 13

The director acknowledges and takes into account the opinion of the evaluation committee and appreciates the demanding work of its panel members. Some of the criticisms made by the evaluators relate to matters over which the Institute of Art History (IAH) has no influence. This in particular concerns the low share of institutional funding, which could lead to the disintegration of the research concept. The IAH believes that this is a complex problem that relates to the funding of academic work in the Czech Republic. The low salaries, set by a fixed pay scale, paid to the employees of the IAH are the result of its real financial capacity. If the institute does not have sufficient resources with which to significantly increase wages, it can only reduce the number of employees and redistribute the funds 'saved' amongst the other salaries. This, however, is a short-sighted strategy that would prevent the institute from functioning fully and would thereby weaken its role as a prime research institution and as a service centre for art history in the Czech Republic.

The director appreciates that the evaluation committee has drawn attention to the problem of the critical spatial conditions of the library and to the equally critical spatial conditions of the documentation department.

The director is certain that the evaluation will form the basis for a deep reflection on the state of the institute, its course of development, and how it intends to fulfil its main tasks. The director accepts the Final Report on the evaluation of the Institute without question.

Prof. PhDr. Vojtěch Lahoda, CSc.
Director of the Institute of Art History

