

REVOLUTION BEHIND CLOSED DOORS:  
ARTISTIC HABITS OF PRAGUE SURREALIST WRITERS  
DURING “NORMALIZATION”

*Kristin Watterrott*

Prague-based surrealist playwrights founded an association in 1934; the group is still in existence. During the 1970s and 1980s, the time of “normalization”, the Prague surrealists were ousted from the public realm of arts and culture. Since then, they met in members’ private quarters to pursue purely internal projects. They developed a particular form of their art, the “interpretative play”. The present contribution examines this new format from all possible points of view. The plays are analysed not only as surrealist productions, but also from the angle of group sociology and in the context of contemporary cultural politics. A sample is used to illustrate the different strata of interpretation in all their complexity, thus opening the way for novel perspectives on the “interpretative play”.