ŠTĚPÁNEK, Kamil. ***Úvod do dějin umění v učitelství dějepisu pro základní školy*****. Masarykova univerzita. 2024. 70 pp.**

Art history is an important part of school history (and the training of teachers of this subject). This historical subdiscipline is the subject of a newly published slim textbook prepared by Kamil Štěpánek, assistant professor at the Department of History of the Faculty of Education at Masaryk University, with a focus on history teaching. The publication is divided into five chapters, which are further divided into subchapters. The first chapter introduces the purpose of the text and instructions for its use. The objectives of the work are to define only the necessary information on the topic (dates, concepts, contexts), to offer readers a helping hand in simplifying their understanding of the issues, and to provide methodological guidelines for age-appropriate interpretation and activities in history teaching at primary schools. The publication is intended to be a textbook, a methodological guide, a dictionary, and a concise history of the topic. The second chapter occupies the central space, where historical changes in art are briefly presented chronologically – the characteristics of individual styles, basic terminology, significant works and representatives (with pronunciation for some foreign authors), particularly in architecture, painting, and sculpture. The author follows basic foreign works and authors, but also touches on key domestic art. This is a very brief explanation (which corresponds to the set goal); those interested in further information must search for it themselves, which can be aided by the list of recommended literature and its analysis in the introduction to the work. The third chapter is devoted to the didactics and methodology of applying art history in teaching. I consider this chapter to be crucial in view of the intended readers (primarily history teacher training students). The author presents general didactic and methodological principles, ideas for practice, and briefly discusses education for the protection of cultural heritage. The following chapter offers examples of questions and tasks and the construction of test items on the subject (including suggested correct answers). The last chapter contains a list of used and recommended literature, an index of artists' names and pronunciations, a glossary of selected technical terms from art history, and a list of image attachments and their sources. As the title suggests, the publication offers a brief introduction to the subject. It fulfills its stated objectives; it is a teaching aid, not a classic technical book with continuous footnotes. It should be viewed and appreciated as such. It is a pity that there are some minor formal and technical shortcomings. The publication is supplemented with (often author's) photographs, pictures, and drawings.

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