

ODETA ŽUKAUSKIENĖ

Unusual Posers, or the Forms of Everyday Resistance

Summary

The enigmatic posers at the State Art Institute of the *Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania* Kazimieras Skebėra (1904–2003) and Justinas Mikutis (1922–2022) remain “ambiguous” personalities in Lithuanian cultural history. The article explores the activity of these former Soviet gulag deportees as a form of unarticulated anti-Soviet resistance. The author refers to the studies of everyday residence and to the testimonies of the unusual posers and artists in order to highlight the intensions and aspirations of these underground personalities who created

alternative discourses and networks during the years of Soviet repression and stagnation. The article also reconstructs the intellectual portrait of literary researcher Mikutis, revealing the nature of his informal pedagogy, conversation-focused philosophical thinking, and existential worldview based on Christian existentialism. It explores archival material and his fragmented manuscript notes punctuating the main lines of thoughts based on literary and philosophical subtexts that connect his painful experiences with the dilemmas of existentialism.

Keywords: Lithuanian State Art Institute, posers, ambiguous personalities, Kazimieras Skebėra, Justinas Mikutis, everyday resistance, anti-soviet informal resistance, existential experience, existentialism.