

Hungarian University of Fine Arts

Doctoral School

People Long for Warmth

Changes in work, housing and energy during modernity
from the perspective of the concept of body heat

DLA dissertation

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English language thesises

1. The centralisation and industrialisation of food production and the energy supply of the home in the course of modernity has resulted in a new definition of the subject. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the extraction of hydrocarbons and the industrial revolution industrialised both energy production and food production, thus removing food, housing and the energy supply of the home from the sphere of former vernacular practices.
2. Food and energy are inherently linked, from the beginning of the Enlightenment to the contemporary present, on both the material and the symbolic plane. On the material plane, this link can be seen in the extraction of hydrocarbons and their impact on the production and distribution of energy and food. At the symbolic level, the new relations of production created by the extraction of hydrocarbons have also changed the image of man, reducing the human body itself to a set of industrial processes.
3. In modernity, the large-scale infrastructures of food and energy production and distribution have both offered the promise of meeting material needs and created constraints by removing them from individual choice in response to some existing need through technology. In doing so, they created a 'radical monopoly' that made it seemingly impossible to imagine an alternative system (Illich 2009). The systems thus created occupy a place both materially and in the public consciousness that makes them increasingly difficult to change.
4. Although the research is concerned with the historical context, with the changes that have taken place over the last hundred years, its starting point is that the systems and bonds that have been created during these changes still determine the subject's living space in the present.
5. The position of the art researcher and the toolbox of art research provide the opportunity to synthesise separate, separately well explored research areas through a personal position. In this case