International Conference

Baroque Portraiture in Silesia and its Neighbouring Lands: New Perspectives

26-27 November 2026
National Ossoliński Institute, Wrocław



Programme

Thursday, November 26, 2026

8:30	**Participant registration**
9:00	**Conference opening**
9:30	**Keynote speaker** **Andrzej Kozieł (University of Wrocław / University of Ostrava)** *Was it Possible to Make a Living From Portrait Painting? The Prices of Portraits and the Earnings of Portrait Painters in the Bohemian Crown During the Baroque Period*
	I. Career Strategies of the Baroque Painters
10:00	**Arkadiusz Muła (Witelon Centre, Legnica)** *„Camerae Pictor" Among Great Patrons: Johann Franz Backer's Strategies of Self-Presentation*
10:20	**Marek Kwaśny (University of Wrocław)** *The Case of Friedrich Jachmann Revisited. A Manifesto of a Free Artist or a Tax Fraud?*
10:40	**Olga Droździecka (Museum of Gdańsk)** *Before Stech and Schultz: Portrait Painters in Gdańsk During the First Half of the Seventeenth Century*
11:00–11:20	**Discussion**
11:20–11:40	**Coffee break**
	II. The Turbulent Fate of the Portrait Collections
11:40	**Renata Komić Marn (France Stele Institute of Art History ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana)** *Migrations of Family History: Portraits of the Silesian Piasts in Slovenia*
12:00	**Tina Košak (France Stele Institute of Art History ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana / University of Maribor)** *The Herberstein Portrait Galleries in Hrastovec (Gutenhag) and Herberstein Castles: Transformations and Adaptations*
12:20	**Aleksandra Matczyńska (Wrocław University Library)** *Wenceslaus Buhl (1619–1685) and His Collection of Portraits From the Former Wrocław City Library (Stadtbibliothek Breslau)*
12:40–13:00	**Discussion**
13:00–14:30	**Lunch break**

III. Attribution, Identity and Beyond: Challenges in Portrait Research

14:30 **Andrea Steckerová (National Gallery in Prague), Jan Štěpánek (independent researcher, Prague)**
Mapping the Baroque Noble Portrait in the Czech Lands – From Tradition to New Challenges

14:50 **Lilian C.A.M. Ruhe (independent researcher, Arnhem)**
Lost in Time and Transit: From Proud Representation to Mistaken Identity

15:10–15:30 **Discussion**
15:30–15:50 **Coffee break**

IV. Border Lands and Contact Zones

15:50 **Maria Kazimiera Staniszewska (independent researcher, Kraków)**
Ancestors, Scepusian Canons and Magyar Chieftains. Early Modern Portrait Galleries Belonging to the Csáky Family

16:10 **Nicoleta Bădilă (Bucharest Municipality Museum)**
Between Byzantium and the Baroque: Princely Portraiture in Eighteenth Century Wallachia

16:30–16:50 **Discussion**
16:50 **End of the first day of the conference**

19:00 **Conference dinner**

Friday, November 27, 2026

9:00	**Participants registration**
9:30	**Opening of the second day of the conference**
9:40	**Keynote speaker** **Zuzana Macurová (Palacký University Olomouc)** *How to Depict a Woman? The Issue of Female Portraiture and Gender in Early Modern Art Theory*
	V. Rhetoric and Representation
10:10	**Ingrid Halászová (Trnava University)** *Rhetorical Strategies of Baroque Portraiture Between Theory and Practice (ca 1680–1750)*
10:30	**Małgorzata Wyrzykowska (University of Wrocław)** *Between Portrait and Representation: Images of Scholars in the Monastery Library at Lubiąż and the Aula Leopoldina of the Former Jesuit Academy in Wrocław – Patterns, Meaning and Reception*
10:50	**Ada Grzelewska (Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School, University of Silesia in Katowice)** *Two Regimes of Representation: The Baroque Portrait Convention in Jerzy Hoffman's The Deluge (1974)*
11:10–11:30	**Discussion**
11:30–11:50	**Coffee break**
	VI. The Representation of Power: Constructing the Official Image
11:50	**Mariana Levytska (The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)** *Baroque Portrait of a Church Hierarch: Fashioning the Historical and Symbolic Image of Athanasius Sheptytsky*
12:10	**Martina Vyskupová (Trnava University / Slovak National Museum – Museum of History in Bratislava)** *Portrait of Maria Theresa by Franz Anton Palko: On the Question of Ruler's Representation*
12:30	**Magdalena Karnicka (National Museum in Wrocław)** *A Few Medallic Portraits of the Rulers of the Duchy of Oels in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century*
12:50–13:10	**Discussion**
13:10–14:30	**Lunch break**

VII. Sculptural Portrait

14:30 **Artur Kolbiarz (University of Silesia in Katowice)**
Portraiture in the Funeral Sculptures of Franz Ferdinand Bechert

14:50 **Torsten Tjarks (independent researcher, Bonn)**
A Mere Import from Rome? Some Observations on the Tomb of Cardinal Frederick of Hesse-Darmstadt in His Chapel at Wrocław Cathedral

15:10 **Małgorzata Gonia (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)**
Recontextualising a Baroque Portrait: the Case of Bernardino Fioriti's Bust of Cardinal Frederick of Hesse-Darmstadt

15:30–15:50 **Discussion**
15:50–16:10 **Coffee break**

VIII. Investigating Meaning and Function: Case Studies

16:10 **Agata Biernacka (University of Wrocław)**
Between Portrait and Devotional Painting. The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian From the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Polkowice

16:30 **Giulia Scandolara (University of Bologna)**
A Family Reunited in Paint: Collective Portraiture and Lutheran Memory in the Epitaph of Friedrich Reinhold

16:50 **Julia Hłądzyńska (University of Wrocław)**
A Singularity Captured in Portrait – About the Bearded Woman, Based on Engraving From Strachowsky Workshop Portraying Elisabeth Knechtlin

17:10–17:30 **Discussion**
17:30 **Official closing of the conference**

Organisers:
Institute of Art History, University of Wrocław
National Ossoliński Institute, Wrocław

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