

The project's „Johann Christoph Liska's Forgotten Artworks” main goal is to conduct the multilateral research on the less known paintings by the Silesian painter. Johann Christoph Liska (ca. 1650–1712) was one of the best Silesian baroque artists. He was born in Wrocław. He started his education in his stepfather's Michael Leopold Willmann workshop in Lubin. In the 1670s, he spent 6 years studying in Italy. He worked in the area of the present-day Silesia and the Czech Republic. The analysis of the repainted and forgotten paintings by Liska is the main objective of the planned project. The research will be carried out on the 6 paintings (3 from Poland and 3 from Czech Republic). The chosen paintings come from different periods of Liska's life and majority of them were forgotten or discredited as the copies of the originals. Are the paintings really just copies? Is there an authentic Liska's painting under the thick layer of the later interventions? If they are really the originals, is there any chance to renovate and uncover them? What is a difference between the works from Silesia and Bohemia? Is there a change in painting technique and pigments used by the painter in the distinct periods of time? The central task in the project is to seek the answers to these questions.

The research methods and the apparatus of the conservators will help to interpret the artist's working technique, and describe the pigments used in his workshop. It will also establish the degree of the later interventions in the original paint surface, estimate the state of the original layers and verify the authorship. The comparison of the data gathered by the Polish and Czech conservators will result in unprecedented, comprehensive and transnational look on the Liska's oeuvre. The Polish and Czech conservators will investigate the canvases using various techniques, including infrared, ultraviolet and X-ray fluorescence imaging. They will also collect micro-samples of the paintings and further analyze their elemental makeup. Thanks to the analysis, the original paint surface can be distinguished from the old restorations and retouchings. In the case of the canvases with the doubtful attribution the physical analysis can be helpful in verification of the authorship.

The project „Johann Christoph Liska's Forgotten Artworks” is crucial for expanding the knowledge about the Silesian and Bohemian art. The complex analysis of the Liska's painting technique, and the comprehensive description of his forgotten paintings will be the main result of the project. The publication in the international scientific journal gathering the results of the research is the expected measurable outcome. The result of the project will be a significant step forward in the research about the intricate and fascinating baroque Silesian painting. What is more, the art created by Johann Christoph Liska crosses the borders of Silesia and has the great importance for the Bohemian art. The international cooperation between the Czech and Polish researchers as well as the interdisciplinary character of the project can result in the better, more complex analysis of Liska's paintings. It can develop further Polish-Czech collaboration to save and promote the transnational cultural heritage. The project „Johann Christoph Liska's Forgotten Artworks” is seen as the first stage of a longer collaboration, that can finally result in the conservation of the paintings and the international exhibition of Liska's works.