

## Art, Art Market and Sociability. Artistic Transfers between France and Poland in 18<sup>th</sup> Century

The aim of my project is to retrace, understand and describe artistic transfers between Poland and France in 18<sup>th</sup> century. In order to accomplish this objective I will investigate the presence of Polish clients at French art market, their acquisitions and commands, and presence of French artists in Poland. These three aspects of the transfer will constitute the main research paths of the project. My aim is to confront the sublime image of so-called cultural exchange with its more profane, more material and also more pragmatic background. I want to show the importance of intermediators and mediators who have facilitated the travel of objects and mobility of artists. I am particularly interested in the social and economic backstage of the transfer and its entanglement in diplomacy. I hope that my research will not only fill the gap in historiography of Franco-Polish relations, will revise cliché of the "Frenchness" of Polish artistic culture of 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it will also open new research perspectives.

My point of departure is a very simple, or even reductionist definition of cultural exchange as a transfer and opening of traditional art history towards the interdisciplinarity, i.e. social history and sociology of art. This revision of Franco-Polish artistic relations will be based on a critical analysis of lesser-known archives: correspondence of Polish aristocrats with their agents, intermediators and mediators, expenses and inventories. I want to use also the new tools, such as the base of Getty Provenance or [Artl@s](#). The amount of sources to collect is huge, therefore, I have designed for this purpose a two simple databases. Both can be easily enlarged, or rebuilt, and thus employed in the further research.

My project is inspired by a recent researches on the role of sociability in the art market. However, it won't be a continuation of numerous analysis of the Parisian art market. My goal is not to add to the cosmopolitan list of clients operating in this market a new one, that is to say a list of forgotten Polish customers. My ambition is, first of all, to understand how the Franco-Polish network of exchanges worked at different levels and to put into spotlight lesser-known mediators and intermediators. It is also not my goal to refresh already existing "catalogs" of French artists working in Poland or working for Polish clients in St. Petersburg, Rome or Dresden. I am interested in often marginalized problem of the backstage of transfer: its embedding in the social network and its socio-economic reasons. I believe that the realization of such project can help to revise the misunderstandings and clichés of „Frenchness” of the 18th-century art culture in Poland.