

## About the Conservation of Josef Grassi's Painting Showing a Portrait of Izabela Ogińska née Lasocka from the Collection of the National Museum in Krakow

### Summary

Between 2009 and 2010, the Painting and Sculpture Conservation Studio in the Sukiennice at the National Museum in Krakow carried out the conservation of two oil paintings by Josef Grassi, an Austrian painter and portraitist who worked in Poland in 1791–1794. These were the portraits of the Ogiński couple – Izabela Ogińska née Lasocka and Michał Kleofas Ogiński.

These paintings, executed in the style typical of Grassi, combining the traditional technique of Viennese painting and the light form of English painting, serve as perfect examples of the way in which Grassi depicted Polish aristocrats.

During conservation work it turned out that the paintings had been painted over considerably. This changed, in particular, the image of Izabela Ogińska, whose hairstyle turned out to have been a later alteration, covering the original haircut.

This discovery explained many inaccuracies concerning the dating of the paintings.

The conservation restored the exhibition values of the works, which were put again on display in the Gallery of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Polish Art in the Sukiennice at the National Museum in Krakow.