

Art and the nobility in times of decline

Transformations, Translocations and Reinterpretations



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*Art and the Nobility in Times of Decline:
Transformations, Translocations and Reinterpretations*
(J6-1810) is funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)



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Art and the Nobility in Times of Decline: Transformations, Translocations and Reinterpretations is a research project at the France Stele Institute of Art History ZRC SAZU, in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Transport Engineering and Architecture, University of Maribor. It focuses on the role of nobility in artistic production after the mid-18th century and the reception of aristocratic artistic heritage in the territory of Slovenia. Its main objective is to explore how social and political circumstances that contributed to and accompanied the decline of nobility influenced art production and aristocratic commissions. A further objective is to identify the main patrons and artists and their artistic endeavours. Finally, we wish to explore the varying reception of aristocratic heritage and the circumstances effecting its uses.

A versatile team of experts from the fields of art history, history and architecture is cooperating in the project, engaging with topics, such as aristocratic artistic and architectural commissions in the second half of the 18th and the 19th century, renovations and adaptations of castles and other aristocratic residences, the role of the nobility in the development of new artistic and architectural styles and genres, and transformations in the practices of interior furnishing and collecting. With research on the translocations of objects of aristocratic artistic heritage and the uses of castles in the 20th century, the project engages in the question of reception and reinterpretations of aristocratic artistic heritage for the first time in Slovenia.

By intertwining and combining research fields of patronage and collecting, architectural history and provenance research, and a strong focus on archival research, the project significantly complements previous research into aristocratic artistic heritage in Slovenia and beyond.

