

## Summary

The aim of the work *Biographical portrait of Celina Michałowska* was to recreate as faithfully as possible the life story and creativeness of the 19th-century nun artist, Celina Michałowska. She was the daughter and the only student of the famous painter, an outstanding representative of the romantic trend in Polish 19th-century painting, Piotr Michałowski. In 1868, at the age of 30, Celina joined the Convent of Sisters of Immaculate Conception in Jazłowiec. At that time, the superior of the order was its co-founder, Marcelina Darowska, who set the goal of the congregation as the development and education of Polish women. Therefore, the monastery in Jazłowiec became for the nuns residing there, including Michałowska, both a place to fulfill their religious vocation and a space for artistic development.

The life and artistic work of Celina Michałowska are presented in the genre of a thematic biography, in which the narrative focuses on selected problem areas from the artist's life. Based on the analysis of archival materials, mainly on unpublished manuscripts of Celina Michałowska's letters, several problem areas in the biography of the nun painter were identified. The first discussed issue was Celina Michałowska's excellent family connections. Unique personalities from the Michałowski family (on her father's side) and the Ostrowski family (on her mother's side) were presented in order to learn about the environment in which Celina grew up and the values she took from her family home. Then, in order to place Celina Michałowska's biography in a broader historical and social context, the first decades of the history of the Convent of Sisters of Immaculate Conception, and its mission and charisma were presented. Next, the period of Celina Michałowska's nun's life and the numerous artistic tasks she had to cope with in the monastery were described. An important area of concern that concluded the work was the description of the relationship between Celina Michałowska and the superior of the congregation, Mother Marcelina Darowska.

The work primarily used the method of text analysis and interpretation, as well as the archival method, in which an important research activity was the reading of previously unpublished manuscripts of Celina Michałowska's correspondence. The dissertation also discussed Michałowska's artistic work using methods distinctive for the discipline of art history. Thus, the discourse has a transdisciplinary character, because in its creation the achievements of several scientific fields were used, including literary studies, art history, history, pedagogy, and also reached for works in the field of spirituality.

The biography of Celina Michałowska was created to rescue her from oblivion and restore her role in Polish art history, thus enriching the image of 19th-century Polish culture.