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<https://zagartcoll.hazu.hr>

ZagArtColl_ProResearch
Provenance Research on Artwork
in Zagreb Collections

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The project "Provenance Research on Artwork in Zagreb Collections" traces the destiny of artwork and/or art collections in Zagreb that were affected by social and geopolitical changes in different periods of recent Croatian history. It is conceived as fundamental research which includes examination of archival sources as well as art historical analysis of artwork and other cultural heritage objects (once) located in Zagreb's private and public collections.

This research topic provides a framework for considering collecting patterns and acquisition strategies of individuals, selected families, and entire institutions, thus enabling an insight into their aesthetic preferences and levels of cultural awareness. At the same time, this particular research angle bears the potential to advance knowledge on multifaceted segments of social and political history in a particular area over a longer period, as well as on its (thus far mostly neglected) protagonists. A particularly challenging segment is the survey of the role of various authorities, institutions and individuals in handling and administering cultural heritage, especially in circumstances strongly marked by (un)resolved historical conflicts.

The project's reference point is the city of Zagreb as the epicentre of manifold phenomena and processes that shaped Croatian social, cultural, and intellectual history in different social and political contexts and states – first after 1918, then in the period between 1939/1941 and 1945, after 1945 and finally after 1991. The project focuses on works of art considered from the perspective of provenance research, with the aim of their identification and contextualization in particular points in time, necessarily complemented by traditional art historical methods which ensure a comprehensive approach to the research topic and its integration into the field of art history.

The four-year project (2021-2024), funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, is led by the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, with some project activities implemented in partnership and cooperation with other institutions (Museum Documentation Centre, Museum of Contemporary Art, Croatian Society of Art Historians).