

### Summary

#### **MAREK KWAŚNY / Johann Jacob Eybelwieser in the service of the Knights Hospitallers, or how a painter's career was made in Baroque Silesia**

Although in studies of Baroque art in Silesia Eybelwieser's name appears repeatedly, there is no single monograph dedicated to him, his biography and achievements still requires further study. This extremely hardworking artist, son of a painter from Vienna, lived and worked in Wrocław throughout his entire professional career, where in 1698 he earned a master's guild. Despite the fact that as a member of the city guild of painters he made many works (especially portraits) on the order of Wrocław townspeople, as a catholic he quickly found, however, many patrons among representatives of the Silesian clergy. Not without significance remained the fact that in the beginning of 18th century. Eybelwieser began working with the greatest painter in Silesia – Michael Leopold Willmann – and his famous workshop in Lubiąż, which for many years monopolized the market for religious paintings for Silesian catholic churches. Among the clients of Eybelwieser were then Jesuits from Świdnica, Cistercians from Trzebnica, and above all, The Knights of the Cross with the Red Star and The Knights of Malta. Analysis of the long-term cooperation with the latter seems to be the perfect introduction to the study of the entire work of this extraordinary versatile painter – the author of oil paintings on canvas, but also frescoes and drawings, created both for the workshop, as well as for professional engravers. Twenty-year lasting cooperation with the Knights Hospitallers presents to be extremely significant in the context of the entire work of Eybelwieser. It reflects the impact of Willmann's art, whose "sketchy" manner Eybelwieser tried to imitate. He also derived from his work, creating multiple paintings based on the compositions of the "Silesian Apelles" works. Whereas the Knights of Malta were trying to rebuild their former power in Silesia, they found in Eybelwieser an exceptional partner who created works depicting the glory of the Order and adding splendor to the church interiors.

*Translated from Polish: Marek Kwaśny*