

RESEARCH AND MAKING OF A COPY OF POLYCHROME WOOD SCULPTURE MADONNA AND CHILD FROM THE CHAPEL OF ST. JACOB ON OČURA

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Chapel of St. Jacob (15th century) is the largest Gothic chapel in Hrvatsko zagorje. It is located northeast of Krapina, on Očura hill. Although today it is dedicated to St. Jacob, its former titular was the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has been a place of pilgrimage since time immemorial, fairs were held around it, and it is still in its liturgical function today.

In the 18th century it was refurbished in the baroque style and equipped with valuable altars.

Due to a series of bad circumstances, the inventory of the chapel was devastated, and the opus of extremely valuable Gothic wall paintings almost completely disappeared from its walls after World War II.

The diploma work took place in several phases:



- making a punctuation frame (1)
- puncturing according to the original sculpture (2)
- modeling a copy in clay (3)



- making gypsum negative (mold) (4a, 4b)
- positive casting in polyester resin (5)



- laminating of dried wood (6)
- cutting and carving in linden according to the cast positive with the help of puncturing (7)



After the sanctuary was demolished during World War II, the sculpture has been removed from the main to the left side altar

In 1948 the conservator Ljubo Karaman saved the central sculpture of the main altar - the Gothic Madonna with Child and transferred it to Zagreb. The sculpture was first restored in the 1950s, and then underwent two more restoration works, of which there is only scant documentation.

Today it is stored and presented in the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Zagreb.

In situ, after several decades, conservation work on the chapel's architecture is nearing completion, but the baroque inventory of the chapel has almost completely disappeared.

For the past ten years, students and teachers of the Department for Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art in cooperation with the Conservation Department in Krapina have been systematically researching and rescuing the remaining wooden inventory, found in various locations in poor condition. So far, research and conservation-restoration works have been carried out on a dozen sculptures, and two more have recently been discovered.

The idea about making a copy of the sculpture *Madonna with Child* came from several sides, but the main initiative was given by Lady Jadranka Beresford-Peirse of International Trust for Croatian Monuments, who donated funds to make the copy.

Graduate Luka Krešimir Stipić, under the mentorship of Full Professor Zvezdana Jembrih MA and Acad. sculptor Zvonimira Obad as co-mentor accepted this demanding task in early 2019.



Mentor Zvezdana Jembrih, Lady Jadranka Beresford-Peirse and graduate Luka Krešimir Stipić during works

In the next phase, which will be realized within the diploma thesis of student Marko Rizvić, with Assist. Prof. Ana Božičević as co-mentor, the focus will be on scientific and laboratory research of preserved layers of polychromy. The copy in wood will be covered in gesso, polychromed, gilded, silvered and varnished according to identified original layers.



Sampling for pigment analysis and X-ray image of the sculpture *Madonna with Child*



In agreement with supervisory institutions, the copy will be placed on the sanctuary wall of St. Jacob's Chapel, where it will serve a liturgical function and as a testimony and memory as a central statue of the restored liturgical space.

Chapel of St. Jacob during the pilgrimage on Easter Monday in 2019



Conservators from Zagreb, Ljubo Karaman and Greta Jurišić, saved the sculpture in 1948 and took it to the Diocesan Museum of the Zagreb Archdiocese