

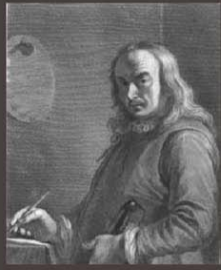


DUBROVAČKI EVANĐELISTI

PREZENTACIJA PROJEKTA HRVATSKOG RESTAURATORSKOG ZAVODA "OSAM EVANĐELISTA IZ CRKVA GOSPE OD KARMENA I SV. VLAHA U OPUSU MATTIJE PRETIJA" (2005.-2013.)

DUBROVNIK EVANGELISTS

PRESENTATION OF THE CROATIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE PROJECT "EIGHT EVANGELISTS FROM THE CHURCHES OUR LADY OF CARMEL AND ST BLAISE IN THE OEUVRE OF MATTIA PRETI" (2005-2013)



MATTIA PRETI BIOGRAFIJA

Mattia Preti (1613-1699.) rođen je u malom talijanskom gradu Taverni u Kalabriji.

Prvi podaci o njegovu boravku u Rimu kod brata Gregorija, također slikara, potječu iz 1633. godine. U Vječnom gradu dolazi u dodir s velikim majstorima poput Caravaggia i Guercina. Nadarajući od starijeg brata, ubrzo postaje popularan i tražen za prestižne narudžbe. Prvijenice, slika ciklusa fresaka u crkvi San'Andrea della Valle i San Carlo ai Catinari. Godine 1641. postavljen je titulom viteza pokornosti, a zatim postaje članom Reda sv. Ivana sa sjedištem na Malti.

Preti se 1653. godine seli u južnu Italiju, u Napulj. Tamo na njega utječe poznati suvremenik, Luca Giordano. Serija velikih zavjetnih fresaka za vrijeme kuge, koju je naslikao na sedam gradskih vrata, jedno je od Pretijevih napuljskih remek djela.

Nakon što je 1661. godine unaprijeđen u red Vitezova milosti, Preti napušta Italiju i odlazi na Maltu, gdje provodi ostatak života. Utemeljuje vlastitu radionicu i zaprima najznačajnije narudžbe s otoka. Na primjer, transformira interijer konkatedrale sv. Ivana golemim ciklusima slika iz života i mučeništva sv. Ivana Krstitelja (1661-1666). Njegova terena reputacija takozvanog "slabavskog viteza" odigrala mu je krunu pokrovitelja i ubrzo počinje primati narudžbe iz raznih krajeva Europe. Mattia Preti umro je 3. siječnja 1699. godine kao poznati i cijenjeni barokni slikar. Danas mnogi, ne samo europski, nego i svjetski muzeji u svojim kolekcijama čuvaju djela ovog malteškog viteza.

1 Mattia Preti, Gian Domenico Campiglia Autoritratto di Mattia Preti, 18. stoljeće, grafika prema Autoportretu iz galerije Uffizi, Firenca, Italija
Mattia Preti, Gian Domenico Campiglia Autoritratto di Mattia Preti (18th century, print of Mattia Preti's self-portrait from the Uffizi, Florence, Italy)

MATTIA PRETI BIOGRAPHY

Mattia Preti (1613-1699) was born in the small Italian town of Taverna in Calabria.

The earliest reference to Mattia Preti is in Rome in 1633, together with his brother Gregorio, who was also a painter. In the Eternal City, he came into contact with the works of great masters such as Caravaggio and Guercino. More talented and gifted than his older brother, he quickly became more popular and was commissioned to execute prestigious artworks. For example, he painted the fresco cycles in the churches of San'Andrea della Valle and San Carlo ai Catinari. In 1641, Preti was honoured with the title of Knight of Magistral Obedience and subsequently became a member of the Order of St. John, which was based on the island of Malta.

In 1653, Preti moved to the southern Italian city of Naples, where he was influenced by the other major Neapolitan painter of his era, Luca Giordano. One of Preti's Neapolitan masterpieces was a series of large frescoes, ex-votos of the plague, which were painted on seven city gates.

Having been promoted to the rank of Knight of Magistral Grace in 1661, Preti left Italy for Malta, where he spent most of the remainder of his life. Having established a workshop of his own, he obtained many important commissions on the island. For example, he transformed the interior of St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta with a huge series of paintings on the life and martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (1661-1666). The reputation of the so-called "Cavalier Calabrese" led to an expanded circle of patrons, and he soon received commissions from all over Europe. Mattia Preti passed away as a well-established and renowned Baroque painter on 3 January 1699. Today, many museums, not only in Europe but also worldwide, keep artworks of the Maltese Knight in their collections.

IZVORIŠTA PROJEKTA

Ova izložba bavi se dvjema cjelinama slika s prikazom četiriju evanđelista. Slike su bile smještene u baroknim crkvama u Gradu unutar zidina: bratovštinskoj crkvi Gospe od Karmena (1) i Svetom Vlahu (2), parčevoj crkvi na glavnom gradskom trgu. Donedavno su se pripisivale radionici priznatog talijanskog baroknog umjetnika i viteza Malteškog reda, Mattije Pretija (3). Uslijed neuglednog stanja, potamnjelog i zamagljenog laka te opsežnih retuša/preslika iz ranijih vremena, bile su uvelike zanemarene.

Tek se 2005. godine, kad je Hrvatski restauratorski zavod (HRZ) započeo restauraciju cjeline iz Gospe od Karmena, razotkrila njena izvrsna kvaliteta. Istraživanja su nagovijestila da bi bar dio slika ove cjeline mogao biti i djelo samog Mattije Pretija. Ovo otkriće jasno je ukazalo na potrebu interdisciplinarnе suradnje povjesničara umjetnosti i restauratora, kao i daljnjih istraživanja koja nadilaze uobičajene konzervatorsko-restauratorske postupke.

Na početku projekta, bila je poznata samo jedna slika iz negdašnje cjeline Evanđelista Mattije Pretija: Sv. Marko u Italiji (8c) te dvije kopije prema Pretiju, Sv. Marko i Sv. Luka, na Malti (9a, 9b). Dubrovačke slike su, stoga, bile ključne za rekonstrukciju ikonografije cjeline. Štoviše, suprotno tadašnjim znanstvenim mišljenjima, postojanje dviju cjelina *Evanđelista* u Dubrovniku sugeriralo je da talijanski majstor ipak jest povremeno ponavljao uspješne kompozicije. Zato je nova procjena ovih dviju dubrovačkih cjelina otvorila novi pogled na opus Mattije Pretija i njegove barokne radionice.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

This exhibition focuses on two series of paintings representing the four Evangelists. These sets of four paintings were located in two Baroque ecclesiastic buildings in the inner city of Dubrovnik: the confraternity church of Our Lady of Carmel (3), and St. Blaise (2), a church honouring the patron saint of the city. Until recently, these paintings were attributed to the workshop of the renowned Italian baroque artist and Knight of the Maltese Order, Mattia Preti (1). The poor condition of the paintings, obscured by darkened varnish and extensive retouching in earlier times, has meant that they have been largely overlooked.

It was only in 2005, when the Croatian Conservation Institute (HRZ) began the restoration of the series of *Evangelists* from Our Lady of Carmel, that their excellent quality was revealed. The research results suggested that at least some of the paintings of this series might be autograph works by Mattia Preti. This discovery has made clear the need for interdisciplinary work with art historians and painting restorers, as well as further in-depth investigations which would go far beyond the usual conservation-restoration processes.

At the beginning of the project, only one painting of Mattia Preti's *Evangelists* series was known: a *St. Mark* in Italy (8c), as well as two copies of Preti's *The Evangelists St. Mark and St. Luke* from Malta (9a, 9b). The Dubrovnik paintings were therefore fundamental for a reconstruction of the iconography of the series. Moreover, contrary to current scholarly opinion, the existence of these two series of *Evangelists* in Dubrovnik suggested that the Italian master did on occasion repeat his successful compositions. A re-evaluation of the two Dubrovnik series thus promises to shed important new light on the oeuvre of Mattia Preti and his Baroque workshop.



2 Tlocrt Dubrovnika – crkva sv. Vlahu
City plan of Dubrovnik – St Blaise's Church

3 Tlocrt Dubrovnika – crkva Gospe od Karmena
City plan of Dubrovnik – Our Lady of Carmel church