

A WOMAN AND PSYCHIATRY – ON THE BASIS OF THE BIOGRAPHY AND MARIA KOMORNICKA'S WORKS WITH A GLANCE ON INGA IWASIÓW'S PROSE

Summary

Pathologizing rebellion, anger and excellence, genuity, isolation, marginalization, exclusion. These terms are used by gender criticism of 19th century psychiatry. They prove to be very useful for the analysis of the output and the biography of Maria Komornicka /Piotr Odmieniec Włast (1876–1949), one of the first Polish emancipationists kept in a lunatic asylum for many years. Helbig, the author of *Strącona bogini* [Lost Goddess], a monograph about Komornicka, applies these terms, although in a different way, in relation to the works of a contemporary writer Inga Iwasiów in whose novels (e.g. *W powietrzu* and *Pięćdziesiątka*) a psychotherapeutic discourse is treated in a parodistic and ironic way and psychotherapy rejected. Though in a different way, both writers, the one from Młoda Polska [Young Poland] period, pathologized and for many years excluded from the literary canon, and the contemporary one, express their rebellion against subordination to psychiatry or psychotherapy in the name of women's autonomy.

Translated by Joanna Lipniewicz