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From the Academia

## Yes Women Can!

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie was a great female scientist, tenacious and persistent. Would she manage to find a place for herself in today's Poland if she were alive today? As an atheist, an active feminist, vocally advocating women's rights to all choices in life, speaking out about the rights of homosexuals and giving support to Oscar Wilde?. Moreover, as our thought-provoking **commentaries** (p. 30 and p. 50) point out, given the new reforms of Polish science, she could face considerable difficulty obtaining a research grant. She would probably depart for Paris, where she would stand a better chance today of being accepted into the **French Academy of Sciences** (p. 20) – since its 230 members nowadays include 16 women! Perhaps she might also become a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, boosting the 3% female representation among its top leadership.*

*In this issue we write quite a lot about Marie (about her **private life and daughters** on p. 4, about her professional life and preserved **documents** on p. 36), but also about other women: two great women **visionaries in 18th-century Paris**: the Marquise Émilie du Châtelet and Madame Louise d'Épinay (p. 27) plus ancient and **medieval women of letters**, usually given little attention in history (p. 12). We explore interesting work by three **young female researchers** affiliated with PAS institutes (pp. 33, 38, and 46), taking the opportunity to ask how they manage to reconcile scientific careers with their home lives. We also talked to an outstanding female researcher and PAS member, Prof. **Irena Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz** (p. 40), about life in tough historical decades during which world-class Polish science nevertheless managed to develop.*

*Such an issue could of course not be complete without articles on **radioactivity** (p. 24) and its applications in **oncology** (p. 8). We also did not forget about today's significant **contribution by Polish scientists** to world science (p. 16 and p. 48).*

ACADEMIA staff



Artist's materials

**Elżbieta Jabłońska, "Random Pleasure: A Strainer" (2006-2010)**

Elżbieta Jabłońska was born in 1970 and lives in Bydgoszcz. She studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, where she now teaches. She mainly works with installations and performances, primarily ironic commentaries about the situation and status of women in Poland. Her work is permeated with a considerable dose of humor.