4. Věra with Painted-Over Wings

Přemysl Arátor writes about the painting ***Věra with Painted-Over Wings*** (1951):

“Brázda’s strict opposition to modern art – and its sloppy, hasty, and careless improvisations was linked to a lasting respect for the solid art of the Old Masters, including traditional disciplines such as portraiture and the nude. In homage to these masters of ‘beautiful painting, ’and also in honor of Věra Nováková, he created the work later titled *Věra with Painted-Over Wings*.

Originally, she did in fact have wings, as if they had grown from her – though this is difficult to imagine today – and it appeared quite natural, as it does with many figures in the Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassicism. That amusing, almost absurd, and somewhat superficial idea came from a popular song: ‘You are my guardian angel, and I am but a frivolous man.’

But then Věra’s outspoken brother-in-law asked what the wings were supposed to mean – whether it implied that Věra was a ‘goose’ – and Pavel Brázda painted them over. They remain hidden beneath the black background. Perhaps it is a pity that those carefully painted wings were lost, and perhaps not. Without them, the painting remained simpler and more focused, in which a moderate classicism is applied in a manner unusually restrained for Pavel Brázda.”