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**Christian Iconography and Contemporary Art
in Slovakia before and after 1989**

The paper reviews the development of Christian iconography in the work of visual artists in Slovakia before and after 1989, when there was a change in the social order (the Velvet Revolution). Attention is focused on the gradual transformation of the artists' interest in traditional motifs, which include Christian iconography, and which face contemporary artists with the challenge of conducting a dialogue with themes that have been depicted for centuries. The text concisely maps the work of six artists from different generations: Julián Fila, Klára Bočkayová, Ladislav Čarný, Dorota Sadovská, Matúš Lányi and Ján Mathé. Ján Mathé is an artist who managed to raise Christian (Marian) iconography to the language of abstraction, and paradoxically was enabled during the normalisation period to site his sculptures with Marian themes in public places in Košice. Among a number of artists we can follow a degree of interpretative tension, where the artists leave us an open field for the formulation of our own point of view. Many of them, with the transformation of Christian iconography to contemporary visual language, have contributed their share to reviving it qualitatively and have shown the creative potential in this theme.