

Daniel Zec

Divine Spark or *Pistis Sophia*

The subject of this study is the iconographic analysis of the painting titled *The Divine Spark (Pistis Sophia)*, an example of Symbolist painting from the early 20th century. The author of the painting is Josip Leović (1885-1963), a Croatian artist from Osijek, and the painting was made for his maecenas, the rich Osijek industrialist Rudolf Povischil. The iconographic analysis takes into account various, mostly esoteric connotations of the iconographic motifs in the painting, that carry a universal, mutually nourishing esoteric symbolism of celebrating the metaphysical myth of enlightenment. Eventually, the Gnostic manuscript *Pistis Sophia* is detected as the original literary model for the painting, followed by an analysis of the correlation between the text and the image.