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Special Features of Iconography in the Artistic Work of Juvenaly Mokrystskyy and Jerzy Nowosielski: Philosophical and Theological Aspects

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This article deals with the artistic work of two iconographers: Juvenaly Mokrytsky, a monk belonging to the Studite order who was born in Lviv, and Jerzy Nowosielski, who was born in Krakow. Both artists are vivid representatives of sacred art from the second half of the 20th century. The works of these artists are kept in many European countries and also in the USA. In particular, the iconography by J. Mokrytsky can be found in Greek Catholic temples in England, Italy, Germany, Argentina, USA, Canada, and Ukraine. The works by J. Nowosielski are situated in Catholic and Orthodox temples in Poland, Germany, France and also in private collections.

This article deals with the interpretation of philosophical and theological themes within the icons of Juvenaly Mokrytsky and Jerzy Nowosielski. The influence of Byzantine art which is reflected in the iconographers' artistic individualities, is also analysed. Despite the differences, which occur in the icons of the two artists, many similar stylistic features can be found in their art. Biographic data and facts that influenced the development of the individual styles of the two artists are also considered in the article: for example the experience of visiting of the Museum named after Andrey Sheptytsky in Lviv and the events of the Second World War.

Examples of the work of the two artists are considered and in addition, the basic directions in icon painting that prevailed in the second half of the 20th century and remain relevant until now.