

CHRISTIANITY THROUGH ART

So powerful is the message of the Gospels that it has influenced every area of the human experience, including literature, music, drama, and art. We can gain valuable insights about the beliefs and values of a culture by the art that is created. **Evidence of Jesus' birth and His resurrection have permeated the art world since it became legal to display art with a Christian theme, not quite 2000 years ago.** Many of the world's most talented and highly respected artists have represented scenes from the Bible in their art.

You may have seen pictures of the magnificent **ceiling in the Sistine Chapel** in Rome, which was painted between 1508 and 1512 by Michelangelo. The gigantic ceiling mural represents events from the Bible, including Michelangelo's interpretation of the creation of Adam, in which God reaches out to Adam, and through his touch, gives him life.



Michelangelo, From *The Creation of Adam*, Sistine Chapel

Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, one of the best-known paintings in the world, has been reproduced over and over as a symbol of the Christian faith. And, as mentioned earlier, *Salvator Mundi* (Savior of the World), a representation of Jesus Christ, also by da Vinci, received the **highest price of any painting so far in history** when it was purchased for \$450.3 million at Christie's in New York in 2017.



Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper*, Sta. Maria delle Grazie, Milan