

*“The DaVinci Code: Is there a woman in that painting?”*

The novel, *The DaVinci Code*, by Dan Brown, and the forthcoming movie, have captured the imagination of many readers and have drawn widespread media attention. Few of us fully appreciate the place of Mary Magdalene in Christian scripture, history, or art. Using depictions of Mary Magdalene in Christian art and music, and some theological and scriptural sources, I will look behind the current “hype” to explore the meaning of Mary Magdalene through a series of slide-illustrated questions: How do we interpret Christian art? Who interprets Christian art? Who interprets Christian history? What "lens" do we use when "reading" a painting such as Leonardo's LAST SUPPER? What role does the cultural concept of gender play in the "reading" of Christian art? Who was Mary Magdalene in Christian art?