



Our Lady of Vladimir, Constantinople, early 12th century. The postures of Christ and Mary are overwhelmingly tender. We see the sole of Christ's right foot, which means that his knee is bent and his body is in an upward movement, pressing close to Mary. His right hand grasps the hem of her veil, while his left hand circles her neck, his fingers resting on the line of her jaw. His large eyes seek out her face, completely absorbed in her state of mind, and this feeling is emphasized by the fact that the two figures are almost completely contained within the outline of Mary's head and shoulders.