



Dimensions 15" w x 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ " h

The Mother of Tenderness

This icon is *The Theotokos of Vladimir*, also known as *our Lady of Vladimir* or *The Mother of Tenderness*. The original, displayed in Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery, was written in the 12th Century and is one of the most venerated of Orthodox icons. *Theotokos* literally means 'God-bearer', which in the West became translated as 'Mother of God'. Over the centuries, this icon has endured fire, pillage and many restorations; hence the mottled gold and orange background. Yet, through all this, the faces of the Virgin and Child remain those of the original Byzantine masterpiece.