

# Gadamer's Concept of Aesthetic Experience as a Possibility for the Orthodox Biblical Theology

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*This article finds its inspiration in the new interpretations of Gadamer's hermeneutics, which underline the turn in his later period, and which focus on the conception of aesthetic experience as an experience of transcendence. The main thesis is that the understanding of artworks, as Gadamer describes them in contrast to the Kantian subjectification of aesthetics, can be paralleled with the way Orthodox biblical theology struggles to approach Holy Scripture in the context of Church and Tradition. The aim of this article is to bring new material to the growing reception of Gadamer among Orthodox scholars, and to initiate further discussion on the topic by showing the parallels and areas where this reception could continue.*

**Keywords:** *Hans-Georg Gadamer, Orthodox theology, hermeneutics, aesthetics, transcendence, interpretation, Scripture, Tradition, Church*

*„Not what we do or what we ought to do,  
but what happens to us over and above our wanting and doing.”<sup>1</sup>*

Hans-Georg Gadamer

## Introduction

This article follows the new interpretations of Gadamer's hermeneutics, which underline the turn in his later period (last third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century), and which focus on aesthetic experience as an experience of transcendence. My aim in this article is to bring new building material to the growing reception of Gadamer among Orthodox scholars, and to initiate further discussion on the topic by showing the parallels and areas where this reception could continue. The research hypothesis of this article states that the understand-

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<sup>1</sup> Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, London, New York 2013, p. xxv-xxvi. (common acronym 'TM' will be used)