

NEW SPAIN

Spanish Colonies in America - 17th & 18th Centuries

KEY IDEAS

- Colonial Latin America: mix of indigenous art forms with European materials
- Influences of subject matter and forms from Asia and Africa
- Subject matter does vary: religious, portraits, history, genre scenes
- Resembles art from Spain and southern Europe
- Columbus landed in the Bahamas in 1492 = conquest --> colonization!
- Europe brought disease which wiped out much of the Aztecs and Native Americans
- Children born of Spanish and Native Americans are called mestizos
- Spanish heavily desired gold, silver, crops
- Patronage: Spanish commissioned Native Americans = Catholicism with Native American traditions
- Artists: Many are anonymous, the point was to not have fame and glory



What is the FUNCTION of this art work?

Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Concise Global History

CONTEXT

Colonialism is often regarded as a negative phenomenon based on radical social inequalities and a result of brutal conquest. Colonialism is the theory that leads to **Colonization**. Colonialism is the theory that "We are superior to everyone else so we have the right to take over other lands for our own benefit." • Artworks reflect Spanish political and religious colonialism and how the images were used to facilitate that, (co-opting indigenous deities and giving them Christian identities). • The popularity of Japanese screens and the end of Japanese trade was the catalyst for inventing this hybrid colonial art form incorporating European motifs. • Casta paintings convey the perception that the more European people are, the closer to the top of the social and racial hierarchy they belong. • Pure-blooded Spaniards always occupy the preeminent position in casta paintings and are often the best dressed and most "civilized." • Casta paintings convey the notion that one's social status is tied to one's perceived racial makeup. • The first art school in the Americas was established in Mexico City in the late eighteenth century. • Creole artists (of European descent born in the Spanish Americas) in preceding decades had failed to convince the Spanish king to create a pedagogical artistic institution. • By the end of the eighteenth century, the Royal Academy of San Carlos (Real Academia de San Carlos) was established. • This imagery offered an opportunity to highlight symbols of patriotism valuable to a newly independent society.

ARTWORKS

- 81. Frontispiece of the Codex Mendoza
- 90. Angel with Arquebus, Asiel Timor Dei, Master of Calamarca
- 94. Screen with Siege of Belgrade and hunting scene
- 95. The Virgin of Guadalupe (Virgen de Guadalupe), Miguel González
- 97. Spaniard and Indian Produce a Mestizo, attributed to Juan Rodríguez Juárez
- 99. Portrait of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Miguel Cabrera
- 118. The Valley of Mexico from the Hillside of Santa Isabel, José María Velasco

OTHER "CC" ARTWORKS

- 220. Tamati waka Nene, Gottfried Lindaur
- 188. Basin (Baptistère de Saint Louis), Mohammed ibn al-Zain
- 163. Bandolier Bag
- 165. Painted elk hide, attributed to Cotsiogo (Cadzi Cody)
- 166. Black-on-black ceramic vessel, Maria Martínez and Julian Martínez
- 212. Chairman Mao en Route to Anyuan

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. Who is the patron of the work? Does the patron have an identifiable "agenda" in commissioning this work?
2. Who is the intended audience? What would be the intended audience's response to this work?
3. What are the different possible meanings for respective audiences (indigenous cultures, the patron's colonizing culture, contemporary culture, present-day audience)?
4. Why is there an appropriation of a style (usually European) to present a "new world" subject matter?
5. What political and/or social issues predicate the cultural "colonization" of indigenous cultures?
6. What is the significance of specific materials and art making techniques in making the work?

VOCABULARY:	biombos	Viceroy	arquebus
	pinturas de castas	New Spain	New Spain
	enochados	codex	pinturas de castas
	escudo	frontispiece	frontispiece
	mestizo	Colonialism	Colonialism