

Art of Spanish Colonial South America

Week 5 questions

Here are responses to questions that I was not able to provide during this week's class.

1. Sizes of artworks

I added to the PPT the dimensions of all the artworks for which I had or could find dimensions. Some of the works did not have the official museum dimensions in the reference works. If I have seen the work in question, I added the approximate dimensions from my memory.

Dimensions are not provided for prints, but they will be approximately the size of sheet of paper, which can of course vary somewhat.

See the slides with paintings in the PDF of the PPT presentation for these dimensions.

2. Prophecy of Amos

In Gorívar's painting, the prophet Amos holds a banderole that says:

Qui aedificat in caelo ascensionem suam.

This is the beginning of the Book of Amos, chapter 9, verse 6, which says:

qui aedificat in caelo ascensionem suam et fasciculum suum super terram fundavit qui vocat aquas maris et effundit eas super faciem terrae Dominus nomen eius

The Douay-Rheims Bible (i.e., the 16th-17th century Catholic English translation) translates this as:

He that buildeth his ascension in heaven, and hath founded his bundle upon the earth: who calleth the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth, the Lord is his name.

Thus, this would be the verse that at least the 17th C Quiteño Jesuits understood as a prophecy of Jesus's ascension.

Note that the King James Bible (17th century English Protestant translation) translates the same passage as:

It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his name.

This translation deviates from the Latin and perhaps avoids any sense of prophecy.

3. Paintings based on prints

Concerning the question about how artists actually "copied" prints into paintings, I found no source that described a technique other than the artist painting on canvas what he saw before him in the print simply by looking at it, without any intervening technique such as drawing a grid. Of course, this doesn't mean that such techniques didn't exist.