

## **O-Aleijadinho – Brazil**

Organization of the American States and Museum of Modern Art of Latin America

O Aleijadinho, whose real name was Antonio Francisco Lisboa, is a well-known Brazilian sculptor. O Aleijadinho, in Portuguese ‘the crippled’, was his nickname as he was maimed in his hands and feet. He worked in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Aleijadinho’s art work focused on the carving of religious sculptures in wood and soapstone. His work, of the Baroque style, was influenced by the Italian Renaissance and Spanish Baroque styles.

His most famous works are the carvings in the Church of Sao Francisco at Ouro Preto and the sculptures of the Twelve Prophets at Congonhas do Campo. Aleijadinho’s work is based upon the combination of a rich creative imagination and profound knowledge of the raw material with which he worked.

His sculptures of the Twelve Prophets at Congonhas do Campo, show the integration of volume and profiles, which make his work, along with that of Ecuadorian artist Caspicara, the most distinctive works from South America in the Colonial Period.

Although each of Aleijadinho’s sculptures has value on its own, the relationship between the sculptures and the architecture of the edifices near which they are placed enhances their quality and the depth of appreciation obtained from the works.

### **Images**

General view of the façade of the Church of Good Jesus de Matosinhos, at Congonhas do Campo, where the sculptures of the Twelve Prophets can be seen from different angles

View of façade of the Church of Good Jesus de Matosinhos at Congonhas do Campo

View of façade of the Church at Good Jesus de Matosinhos at Congonhas do Campo

Detail of the sculpture of Prophet Jeremiah

Detail of the sculpture of Prophet Ezekiel

Detail of the sculpture of Prophet Joel

Prophet Daniel

Prophet Nahum

Lower part of the sculpture of Prophet Jonah with the whale

Detail of the whale