

Colombia: Colonial Painting

Organization of American States and Pan-American Development Foundation

The history of colonial painting in New Granada centered around the city of Santa Fe de Bogotá. In some other cities, such as Tunja, Popayán, Mompox, and Cartagena de Indias, colonial painting also had important manifestations. Oils on canvas, wood, and metal, always painted on commission, were interchanged from one place to another. But with very few exceptions, colonial painting in Colombia originated in and spread from collective shops and individual artists in Santa Fe. Although some artists or students would leave Santa Fe for brief periods to paint works on commission, thereby enriching the cultural heritage of other cities, all would return to that art center, and the most important colonial works are in religious and private collections in Bogotá today.

The following paintings are by anonymous artists of the Santa Fe School:

Portrait of the Archbishop Jaime Martínez Compañón, 18th Century. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

San Sionisio, 18th century. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

San Marcelino, 18th century. Oil on canvas. Private collection, Washington, DC.

Detail of *San Marcelino*.

Detail of *San Marcelino*.

Virgin and Child, 18th Century. Oil on Canvas.

Detail of *Virgin and Child*.

Unknown figure of Saint with Sacred Heart. Oil on Canvas.

Detail of Sacred Heart (Sagrado Corazon) from previous painting.

Unknown image.

The following are paintings by various colonial artists of Colombia:

Gregorio Vazquez Ceballos, *Santa Rosa de Lima*, Early 18th Century. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

J. P. Mexia, *The Holy Family*, 1708. Oil on Cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Joaquin Gutierrez, *The Virgin of Mongui*, 1708. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

A Sainted Bishop, 18th Century. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Joaquin Gutierrez, *Portrait of the Marqués de San Jorge de Bogotá*, 1775. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Joaquin Gutierrez, *Portrait of the Marquesa de San Jorge de Bogotá*, 1775. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Detail of *Marquesa*

Joaquin Gutierrez, *Graduation Portrait of a Seminary Student*, 1754. Oil on Cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Joaquin Gutierrez, *Graduation Portrait of a Seminary Student*, 1759. Oil on cloth. Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.

Virgin, Museum of Colonial Art, Bogotá.