

**New World Marian Paintings**

A distinctive New World type of Marian image is referred to as a “dressed statue” painting. “Dressed statues” are two-dimensional representations of pre-Columbian dressed statues with drapery that gives the statue a more three-dimensional form. The custom of dressing statues can be traced to Spanish traditions that were important in the New World colonies. Copacabana (Bolivian) Image shows Lady Inca dressed in the Andean style, adorned with a crown, a medallion, and a scarf, as she holds the rosary. The Virgin of the Rosary, often described as a symbol of the mother of God, is depicted wearing a crown, rosary, and other accessories. The Virgin is often depicted in a mantle, and her garments are adorned with precious stones and jewels. The Virgin’s robe is often depicted as red, symbolizing her role as the “Mother of the Church.”

**Discussion Questions**

- What do you think the Virgin’s role as the “Mother of the Church” signifies?
- How do Marian images reflect the cultural and religious practices of the New World?

**Glossary**

- **Bulto**: Three-dimensional religious sculpture
- **Copacabana**: Bolivian Image shows Lady Inca dressed in the Andean style, adorned with a crown, a medallion, and a scarf, as she holds the rosary.

**Santos Figures**

Original portraits of emotional images depicted saints and were used in religious ceremonies. Santos figures, also known as “devotional statues,” were often placed in homes and churches. They were used as a way to connect with the saints and to seek their guidance and protection. Santos figures were often made from materials such as wood, gesso, and water-based paint. They were typically depicted in a severe, somber manner, with the saints often holding symbols of their beliefs, such as crosses or books.

**Timeline**

- 1557: First orders for painted idols in Latin America
- 1632: Church of Our Lady Cocharcas, oldest church in South America
- 1869: Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, New Mexico, ca. 1875-1907
- 1875: Joslyn Art Museum, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Lowell
- 1991: Gold and inlaid with red roses - all symbols of the Virgin - and the rosary. A garland of roses surrounding the Virgin is often an allusion to the rosary and a symbol of heavenly joy. In Christian tradition red roses grow from drops of Christ’s blood. White roses and white lilies symbolize purity. The yellow flowers may be marigolds. The New World devotion of the Virgin’s feast day is tinted with the blood of the Aztecs massacred by the Spaniards in their quest for gold.

**Spanish Colonial History & Art**

- 1767: Catholic support for the art & encouragement of native artists creates Cuzco School & some of the greatest art treasures
- 1825: Spanish colonial mission in Brazil
- 1850: University of Mexico City
- 1900: University of Mexico opens in Mexico City
- 1950: First Jesuit missions in Argentina & Brazil
- 1853: Simon Bolivar leads armies to liberate Bolivia
- 1825: Mexican Independence
- 1825: Bolivia achieves independence
- 1500: Statue of Guadalupe established in Mexico
- 1623: Church of Our Lady Cocharcas, oldest church in South America
- 1825: Mexican Independence
- 1825: Bolivia achieves independence

**Spanish Colonial History & Art**

- 1773: Our Lady of Guadalupe - patroness of Mexico
- 1875: Exequias of the Virgin of Guadalupe
- 1875: Mexican Independence
- 1875: Bolivia achieves independence