



National Hispanic Cultural Center “MUNDOS DE MESTIZAJE”

IMAGE GUIDE

“Mundos de Mestizaje,” by New Mexico master-artist Frederico Vigil, is a buon fresco that depicts thousands of years of Hispanic identity and history in the broadest sense, from Europe to Mesoamerica to the U.S. Southwest. At 4,000 square feet, it is the largest, concave fresco in the United States. This monumental fresco is located in the Torreón on the campus of the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

There are over 220 images in *Mundos de Mestizaje*. Some images refer to specific people, documents, books, religious figures, or technologies. Other images represent concepts or more abstract ideas. Within the fresco there are over a dozen languages and writing systems represented including English, Spanish, Cuneiform, Phoenician, Mayan, Incan, Arabic, Hebrew, and reference to the native languages of some Pueblos in New Mexico.

This image guide elaborates on the images found within *Mundos de Mestizaje* and provides descriptions of the images with historical and other information for further discovery on one’s own. As much as possible, notes on the artist’s interpretation, or reasoning for the images, is also included. *Mundos de Mestizaje* depicts a perspective of Hispanic history as told by the artist, Frederico Vigil, and should be understood as such. Although the image descriptions may vary in length or depth of information, no one image or historical reference is more significant than another.

IMAGES

CP=Cupola
CE=Ceiling
PN=Pendentive North
PE=Pendentive East
PS=Pendentive South

NW=Wall Northwest
NE=Wall Northeast
SE: Wall Southeast
SW: Wall Southwest
NC=Nichos

Fresco Image Guide Part One, pages 1-4

CUPOLA

CP1: Hands of Creator Giving Elements to Humankind

CEILING

CL1: Men and Women Holding Infants
CL2: Moons
CL3: Justicia
CL4: Fé
CL5: Arquitectura
CL6: Militar
CL7: Paz
CL8: Ciencia
CL9: Musica
CL10: Esperanza
CL11: Medicina
CL12: Sagrada Tierra
CL13: Amor
CL14: Educación

Fresco Image Guide Part Two, pages 5-22

PENDENTIVES

North

PN1: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Extremadura
PN2: Diesiseis de Septiembre 1810
PN3: Cinco de Mayo 1862
PN4: Benito Juarez and banner
PN5: George Washington
PN6: Señor ante que el rey esta la ley
PN7: Galvez pesos fuertes Carlos

East

PE1: Our Lady of Guadalupe
PE2: Manifest Destiny
PE3: Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo
PE4: The Railroad in New Mexico
PE5: American before Plymouth rock, new deal, civil rights, women rights
PE6: Dennis Chavez, scroll

continued

South

- PS1: Our Lady of Remedies, Nuestra Señora de los Remedios
- PS2: Villa Alburquerque & San Xavier & Bosque, 1706 (cursive?)
- PS3: Courage, Fuerza, Doña Euphemia
- PS4: El día de Gracias 1598
- PS5: 1681 Recopilacion de leyes de los reynos de las Indias
- PS6: De Anza and Cuernos Verde

West

- PW1: Our Lady of Peace, La Conquistadora
- PW2: Frederico Vigil II
- PW3: San Juan Baptista de Okeh 1598
- PW4: Padre Antonio Jose Martinez, Printing press 1835
- PW5: Studium Victoria de Indis
- PW6: 1254 Nuevas Leyes 1542
- PW7: Coatloxopeuh (flaming sun with wings)

WALLS

Northwest

- NW1: Inverted Figure and banner: Protección Language, Property, Religion (Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo)
- NW2: Banner: 1485 Hernán Cortés 1519 1523 1547
- NW3: Banner: Martín Cortés
- NW4: Plvs Vltra
- NW5: Charles V Coat of Arms (Aguila Bicefera)
- NW6: Ship and Sea animal
- NW7: Anchor, Parrot
- NW8: Christopher Columbus, planted cross
- NW9: Guanahani, San Salvador
- NW10: Mexican coat of arms
- NW11: Quetzalcoatl
- NW12: Phoenicians
- NW13: Viracocha (sun deity)
- NW14: Coatlicue (double-headed serpent)
- NW15: Mask of Itzamna
- NW16: Bison of Altamira
- NW17: Bulls of Guisando
- NW18: Chakana, Incan or Andean Cross
- NW19: Foods of the Americas
- NW20: Tetrahedron
- NW 21: La Dama de Elche
- NW22: Triskelion

Fresco Image Guide Part Three, pages 23-37

Northeast

- NE1: Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart Church
- NE2: 1565
- NE3: Palace of the Governors

continued

NE4: Black Woman
NE5: Enslavement in the Caribbean
NE6: Banner: Isabel como Fernando, Monta Tanto Tanto Monta
NE7: Abril 17 1492, The Conquest of Granada
NE8: Banner: Capitulaciones de Santa Fe
NE9: Our Lady of La Leche
NE10: Miguel de Cervantes
NE11: Antonio de Nebrija, Gramática de la Lengua Castellana 1492
NE12: Aqueduct of Segovia
NE13: Santiago Peregrino or Saint James the Apostle
NE14: Great Mosque of Córdoba
NE15: Mos Maiorum and Lex Duodecim Tabularum
NE16: Roman Man and Bull
NE18: Holy Grail
NE19: The Guide to the Perplexed
NE20: Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, Maimonides
NE21: Averroes, or Ibn Rushd
NE22: Arabic Words and Phrases
NE23: Tahafut al Tahafut
NE24: Astrolabe
NE25: Patio of the Lions

Southeast

SE1: Don Juan de Oñate
SE2: The Pueblo Revolt
SE3: Skull, Banner: jus ad bellum jus in bello, 1680, 1692
SE4: Compadrazgo
SE5: Rebuilding after the Pueblo Revolt
SE6: Franciscans
SE7: Banner: 1598 El Camino Real
SE8: Pobladores
SE9: Banner: 1703 Attixo Atrisco 1905
SE10: San Isidro, the Penitente Brotherhood
SE11: Banner: Para vos, para nos, y para los animalitos de dios
SE12: Female figure with basket
SE13: Banner: Language from various New Mexican Pueblos
SE14: Sun Dagger
SE15: Kiva
SE16: Horno oven

Fresco Image Guide Part Four pages 38-48

Southwest

SW1: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
SW2: La Repuesta a Sor Filotea de Cruz
SW3: Banner: It is wisdom not gold that is the real crown of leaders
SW4: Corn dancer
SW5: Matachines
SW6: Banner: Hunab Ku

continued

SW7: Mayan Zero and Hand Glyphs
SW8: Quinto Sol, the five suns
SW9: Banner: Chilam Balam
SW10: Moctezuma
SW11: La Malinche
SW12: Jaguar warrior
SW13: Corn
SW14: Popul Vuh
SW15: Olmec head
SW16: Jadeite figurine
SW17: Mesoamerican Player and Ball Game
SW18: Script on Ring to Ball Court
SW19: Monument 19, La Venta
SW20: The Ant
SW21: Wheeled animal effigy
SW22: Hand of God
SW23: Pyramid
SW24: Chacmool

NICHOS

NC1: Maya Glyphs
NC2: Bowl of colorful potatoes
NC3: Instruments and utensils
NC4: Celtic image
NC5: Pomegranates
NC6: Olives
NC7: Flowers
NC8: Wheat
NC9: Sperm and Eggs
NC10: Gye Nyame
NC11: L1, L2, L3

Fresco Image Guide Works Cited, pages 1-23

WORKS CITED

THE IMAGES: “MUNDOS DE MESTIZAJE” BY FREDERICO VIGIL

ORIENTATION

CUPOLA (CP)

The cupola is the dome that extends above the ceiling of the Torreón. On the concave wall of the cupola, the artist depicted four hands among a starry sky to represent the hands of the creator giving back the four elements of earth, wind, fire and water to humanity.



CEILING (CL)

The ceiling depicts two men and two women holding up infants, as if toward the Creator's hands in the cupola. We also see the moon in four phases. The ceiling also features the names of the following disciplines of human knowledge and experience, each with according images: Justicia, Fé, Arquitectura, Militar, Paz, Ciencia, Musica, Esperanza, Medicina, Sagrada Tierra, Amor, Educación. These can also be understood as aspirations and professions to strive for.



COLUMNS

When the artist and his advisors were planning, they looked at the Torreón and divided it like a pie, keeping in mind the cardinal directions. The columns depicted in the fresco correspond relatively to each of the cardinal directions. The South column and pendentive are shown as examples below. In this case, the Virgin de Remedios (with greenery) sits at the top of the column between “Ciencia” and “Musica” on the ceiling.



The columns and the Virgin Mary figures at the top of them may be used as points of reference, or a way of differentiating between walls and the locations of the images in the fresco.

PENDENTIVES (PN,PE,PS,PW)

The pendentives (an architectural feature), located at the top of the columns, give the allusion of a flat wall, with depictions of beams that would usually support a structure on either side of the Virgin figures. The pendentives include images of ideas or beliefs, historical figures, and events in history that correspond with images depicted on the walls below them.



There are four futuristic faces located near the ceiling, linked by the beams between four pendentives.

WALLS (NE, NW, SE, SW)

The concave, vertical walls show images of the past and present in Hispanic / Latinx culture and history, and stories of when these cultures and histories came into contact, clashed, and mixed with each other. In this guide, the order of descriptions of images start at the top of each wall the then move left to right as the eye descends.

The Northeast Wall of *Mundos de Mestizaje*.



The Southeast Wall of *Mundos de Mestizaje*



The Southwest Wall of *Mundos de Mestizaje*



The Northwest Wall of *Mundos de Mestizaje*.



NICHOS (NC)

There are seven *nichos* located below the bottom border of the fresco, inset into the lower walls of the Torreón. *Nichos*, or *niches* are found in New Mexican architecture and other architectures of the Iberian-influenced world. Traditional nichos house religious sculpture or shrines. Some of the nichos located under the four painted columns regress to thin, plate-glass windows. Others provide a narrow bench for sitting. Looking up, each nicho features painted images.

