

National Hispanic Cultural Center “MUNDOS DE MESTIZAJE”

IMAGE GUIDE: PART ONE

This image guide provides descriptions of the images in Frederico Vigil’s “Mundos de Mestizaje” buon fresco, located in the Torreón on the campus of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, with historical information and other relevant information.

CEILING (CL)

Figures with Infants (CL1)



The four adult nudes on the ceiling were originally painted as male figures. The artist later revised two who became female. The infants are held skyward as an ode to Frederico Vigil’s Catholic upbringing and his belief that God’s gifts to humankind are children. The infant raised by the adult male figure nearest to the word “Militar” extends its hand beyond the ceiling onto the vertical wall of the cupola, reaching toward the Creator. These images are reminiscent of the images of God and humankind in Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel.

Moons (CL2)

There are four moons/four phases of the moon also depicted on the ceiling. The moons have human-like faces whose expression and phase vary. The moons are ringed with white light, as in eclipses.



Justicia (CL3)

The three figures at the upper left of this group image, two youth and one adult, evoke the maxim, “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.” Three of the child figures in this grouping cover their eyes or are blindfolded. The blindfolded child figure at lower left holds a symbol for fairness in justice, the balance scale. The adult figure at center is a self-portrait of the artist, Frederico Vigil. The artist is depicted holding an open book with lettering that reads, “Equal justice for all.” Another open book, under the artist’s seat, reads “Article 14,” referencing the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which grants citizens equal protection under the law. The various books and objects in the image say, “honor,” “fair,” “praetor,” “Just in...” “wisdom,” and “lex.” Some of these words, like “praetor” and “lex,” directly reference Roman law--a praetor was a judicial officer, and lex is derived from Lex Duodecim Tabularum, the Laws of the Twelve Tablets. The rods bound together with an axe, on the right of the artist, is a fasci. Judges in ancient Rome carried a fasci to symbolizing the

power of government and judicial authority. Justice is also known as a cardinal virtue in the Catholic religion, a virtue that humans can acquire through education and just actions.

Fé (CL4)

Faith (Fé) is one of the theological virtues of Catholicism (among other religions), recognized as a value bestowed upon humans from God. The figure depicted in Fé wears a sacred heart necklace and turquoise earrings evoking styles of Catholic-Hispanic and Native American jewelry. The figure's gown is trimmed with a continuous spiral motif and features several colorful layers. The figure's hands are cupped and open, and they meet in the center, at Fé's heart. The heads of Fé, as well as those of Paz, Esperanza, and Amor, in the fresco, are framed by design elements seen in Spanish Colonial art.

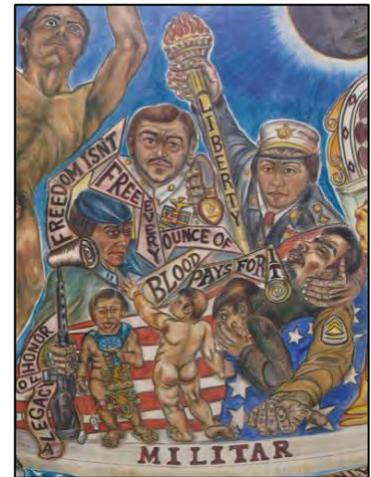


Arquitectura (CL5)

The image above the word “Arquitectura” includes several references to architecture. The four figures hold different mathematical and mechanical shapes as well as building blocks. Two of the figures hold a book with the words “Structur...” “Solar,” “Aer,” “Mechanical,” “Civil,” and “Electrical,” referring to the different disciplines within engineering. The childlike figure at the foreground holds a protractor, a tool used to measure angles.

Militar (CL6)

This image depicts “militar,” or the military. Towards the bottom left there is a banner that depicts “a legacy of honor.” A child figure, next to the banner, weeps and holds a star-shaped badge that reads “valor.” The Medal of Honor around the child-figure's neck honors those who have fought valiantly, some of whom died in battle. In this way, the artist draws on the memorabilia honoring soldiers of remarkable service. The banner in this image reads, “Freedom isn't free, every ounce of blood pays for it.” These words reference veterans of WWII and the Bataan Death March. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese troops invaded the Bataan Peninsula in the Phillipines, which was occupied by U.S. and Filipino soldiers at the time. A large number of these were from New Mexico. After a struggle for power, the U.S. surrendered, and Filipino and American prisoners of war were forced by the Japanese to walk 65 miles across the Bataan Peninsula, resulting in many casualties. The American flag in this image is rotated 180 degrees. On the right of the image, a soldier figure is holding the head of another fallen soldier in one hand while holding a staff that says, “liberty”.





Paz (CL7)

The figure Paz (Peace) is depicted wearing a yellow and blue garment. A design element, above the figure's head, evokes retablos in Spanish colonial art. Paz holds the earth in her hands, as if in hopes for peace.

Ciencia (CL8)

The image for Ciencia (Science) includes various mathematical references such as geometric shapes, symbols, and equations. At the bottom left the name "Planck," is included and references the contributions of the famous German scientist Max Planck to the field of physics. The figure top-left is depicted holding a representation of an atom with Einstein's equation " $E = mc^2$ " featured top-center. In the center of this image, there are references to cell division, the color spectrum, and the future of technology. Also in the center is the word "tiempo," representing the interrelated concepts of space and time. The two childlike figures at the bottom are depicted using modern technology and scientific instruments, one holding a flip-style cell phone, and a magnifying glass.

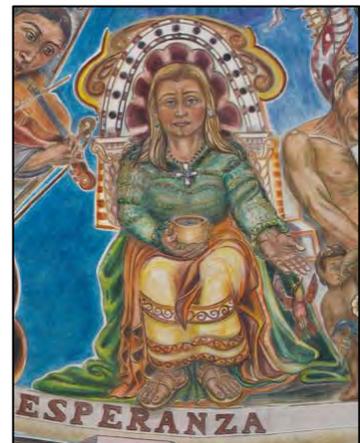


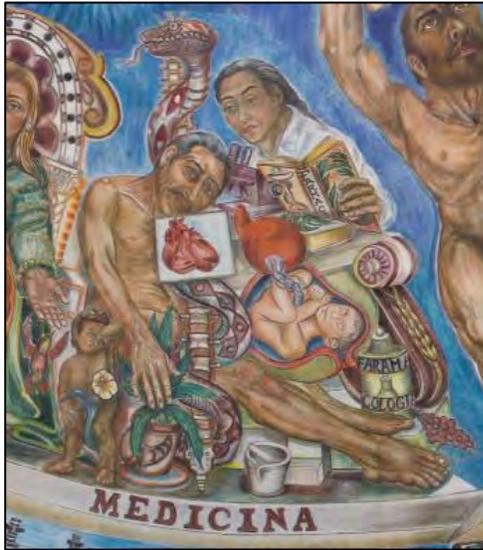
Música (CL9)

The image of Música (Music) includes three figures, all portrayed as playing musical instruments or with mouths open, as though singing. The artist included a variety of instruments to represent music, a guitar, a violin, an organ, a tambourine, a drum, piano keys, and other instruments.

Esperanza (CL10)

Esperanza (Hope) is another of the theological virtues of Catholicism believed to be bestowed upon humans from God. The figure is depicted with one hand holding a golden bowl and the other extended towards a hummingbird. The figure is depicted in a green, yellow and orange-colored garment, and wearing a cross-shaped necklace. Above the figure's head is a design element used in Spanish Colonial art.





Medicina (CL11)

On the left side of this image, a child-figure is depicted holding a flower. Next to the child is an adult depicted with hand extended over a plant, a reference to natural medicine and the herbs used in curanderismo. Curanderismo stems from the Spanish word curar, meaning “to heal.” Found among the Indigenous cultures of Latin America and the Southwest United States, curanderismo consists of healing practices and knowledge of natural and herbal medicine. A painting of biological heart and snake wrapped around human vertebrae, superimposed on the male figure, resembles the symbol for medicine known as the Rod of Asclepius. From Greek mythology, the snake and rod symbol references the Greek god of healing, known as Asclepius. This became the official symbol of the American Medical Association in 1910, and has since been adopted by other medical organizations, such as the World Health

Organization, as a more universal symbol for medicine. An infant-figure is depicted in the center of this image, attached by an umbilical cord to a placenta, which connects to the microscope under the female figure, above. The theme of pharmacy is referenced through a mortar and pestle at the bottom of the image, and the female figure holds a book with a spine that says, “farmac...” On the bottle, bottom right, is the word “farmacología,” Spanish for pharmacology.

Sagrada Tierra (CL12) y Amor (CL13)

The figure Sagrada Tierra (Sacred Earth), holds hands with the figure of Amor (Love) The artist suggests that love for the earth is connected and tantamount to human love. The touching hands of Amor and Sagrada Tierra might be seen to echo the touch between God and humankind in Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel.



Educación (CL14)

This image of Educación (Education) evokes the traditional, cultural, familial, and historical forms of education. Behind the adult figure is a depiction of an MRI brain scan. Below this figure are two children; one is reading, and the other is reaching towards an orb that says “saber,” the Spanish word meaning “to know.” The adult figure is depicted holding an open book where the artist includes a message that reads, “A society needs to educate all of its citizens for it to survive” and “Everyone shall be given the opportunity.” The spines of the books around have the titles “art,” “oral,” “logos,” “traditions,” “culture,” “escuelas,” “syllogism,” “philology,” “history,” and “idioma,” evoking important fields of learning. A keyboard with a mouse is depicted at the bottom of the image to show the development of information technology supporting the advances in education.

