

Painted Murals in the Latino Community in the Cities of Los Angeles, of City Terrace and of Monterey Park

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Sign Graphics 201 - Fundamentals of Mural Painting | Professor: Arthur Mortimer
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This report will discuss and show some painted murals found in the Latino community in the Cities of Monterey Park, of City Terrace, and of Los Angeles, within the Greater Los Angeles Area, California, mostly along the Cesar Chavez Avenue, Garvey Boulevard and City Terrace Drive, on the walls of buildings used for commercial or civic purposes. As shown in *Figures 1* through 4, these murals decorate the facades of churches, hospitals, school buildings, and stores. Their themes include religious stories, political history of the Latino people as well as their daily life. Their styles are mostly realistic with painterly brush strokes and a slight touch of impressionism. All of them have been painted in the 1970s through 1990s, and they are well maintained after restoration.

Mural No. 1

Title of Mural: The Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Angels (Virgen de Guadalupe, Madre de Los Angeles).

Date: 1995.

Location (Street Address if Available): 3945 City Terrace Drive, the City of City Terrace (cross-section: Hazard Avenue)

Name of Artist(s): George Yepes

Description of Building or Structure (Business & Business Name, Residence, Retailing Wall, Bridge, etc.): Painted on the walls around and above the front entrance to the St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church.

Approximate Dimensions: 35 feet L by 35 feet H

Color Scheme: Warm and neutral for most part.

Subject Matter: Biblical New Testament stories.

Condition of Wall: Good (some cracks at the bottom of the central wall have been repaired by cement and partially cover the mural without re-painting, but this problem is not noticeable).

Condition of Paint Layer: Good

Paint Missing or Loose? Not seen.

Hit by Graffiti? Not seen.

Hand Painted or Aerosol: Apparently hand-painted.

Colors Fading? Not obvious.

Quality of Artwork (in your opinion): Great techniques of traditional realistic representation, with elegant painterly brush strokes.

Additional Comments: Style appropriate for a spiritual setting.

Photo of the Mural:

Figures 1. Traditional style mural at the façade of a Catholic Church in Monterey Park.

Mural No. 2

Title of Mural: Christ the Healer.

Date: 1992.

Location (Street Address if Available): White Memorial Medical Plaza I Patient Parking, 1701 Cesar Chavez Avenue, near downtown Los Angeles (cross streets: between State Street and Boyle Street).

Name of Artist(s): George Yepes.

Description of Building or Structure (Business & Business Name, Residence, Retailing Wall, Bridge, etc.): Painted on the wall of the parking structure of the White Memorial Hospital operated by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Approximate Dimensions: 40 feet L by 40 Feet H

Color Scheme: Cool on the top and warm at the bottom.

Subject Matter: Biblical story about Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and healing of the sick (indicated as from Isaiah 53 1-5).

Condition of Wall: Good

Condition of Paint Layer: Good

Paint Missing or Loose? Not seen.

Hit by Graffiti? Not seen.

Hand Painted or Aerosol: Apparently hand-painted.

Colors Fading? Not obvious.

Quality of Artwork (in your opinion): Great visual quality with harmonious color scheme and realistic representational skills.

Additional Comments: Great composition with triangular arrangement of imageries pointing upward and integrated with concentric circles, to suggest something "sublime" and "spiritual."

Photo of the Mural:



Figures 2. A three-story high giant mural of Biblical story on the façade of the parking structure of Wright Memorial Hospital (associated with Seventh-Day Adventist Church), with fairly classic and traditional aesthetic style.

Mural No. 3

Title of Mural: La Doliente de Mercado Hidalgo

Date: Painted in 1976; restored in 1990 with funding from the Social and Public Arts Resource Center.

Location (Street Address if Available): 4101 City Terrace Drive, City Terrace, CA 90063 (cross-section: Miller Avenue; across the City Terrace Library of Los Angeles County)

Name of Artist(s): Willie Herron III, Rene Ramirez and Ralph Ramirez (Artist's Assistants)

Description of Building or Structure (Business & Business Name, Residence, Retailing Wall, Bridge, etc.): Painted on the top portions of the exterior walls of a building that combines residential units with a store (the Mercado Hidalgo General Grocery Store).

Approximate Dimensions: 25 feet L by 10 feet H on the left wall and 30 feet by 10 feet on the right wall.

Color Scheme: Mostly warm and fresh colors with high intensity.

Subject Matter: Mexican-American social and political history, or the revolutionary struggle for national liberation from foreign domination and invasion. The mural celebrates Mercado Hidalgo, a Mexican revolutionary leader.

Condition of Wall: Good.

Condition of Paint Layer: Good

Paint Missing or Loose? Not seen.

Hit by Graffiti? Not seen

Hand Painted or Aerosol: Mostly hand-painted from observation.

Colors Fading? Not seen.

Quality of Artwork (in your opinion): Very dynamic imageries.

Additional Comments:

Photo of the Mural:



Figures 3. A mural depicting Latino life and struggle, on the building housing a food store named Mercado Hidalgo at 4101 City Terrace Drive, Monterey Park, California, at the cross section of City Terrace Drive and Miller Avenue.

Mural No. 4

Title of Mural: Read

Date: 1978. Restored in 2009 by the Mural Conservation Direccion.

Location (Street Address if Available): 3965 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Los Angeles (cross-section: Hazard Avenue).

Name of Artist(s): Created by Josefina Quezada, M. Teresa Chacun and others. Restored by Josefina Quezada, Ofelia Esperza, R. Taravera-Chavez, Fernando Porrás, and Xavier esperza.

Description of Building or Structure (Business & Business Name, Residence, Retailing Wall, Bridge, etc.): Painted on the exterior wall of Anthony Quinn Public Library of Belvedere.

Approximate Dimensions: 60 feet H by 12 feet H

Color Scheme: Vivid and fresh colors with both warm and cool ranges.

Subject Matter: Reading and literacy campaign.

Condition of Wall: Good.

Condition of Paint Layer: Good.

Paint Missing or Loose? Not seen.

Hit by Graffiti? Not seen.

Hand Painted or Aerosol: Hand-painted.

Colors Fading? Not obvious.

Quality of Artwork (in your opinion): Good.

Additional Comments: N/A.

Photo of the Mural:



Figures 4. A mural depicting literacy activities on the exterior wall of Anthony Quinn Public Library, 3965 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Los Angeles, at the cross section of Hazard Avenue.