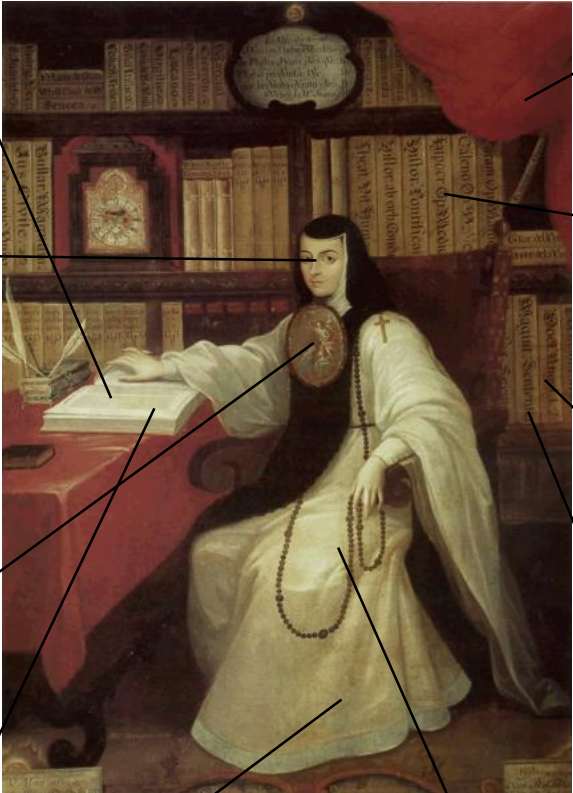


Portrait of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Miguel Cabrera



The portrait depicts Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz seated at a desk, surrounded by a vast library. She is wearing a white habit with a black veil and a large, ornate necklace. Her gaze is directed towards the viewer. The background is filled with bookshelves containing numerous books. A red curtain is visible in the upper right corner.

Seen as one of Mexico's literary greats. Wrote many sonnets in the Spanish tongue.

Unlike many nun portraits Cabrera paints her gaze towards the viewer and the depiction of her worldly passions of science which shows her interests as a person not just a figure.

Became a nun at the age of 19 to be able to openly study academics which was prevented at this time in many places.

Was persecuted for being an academic and eventually was forced by the church to sell her equipment and books.

The red curtain symbolized her high status and importance in society and the church.

Books in painting include real books in her favorite subjects such as books on philosophy, natural science, theology, mythology, and history.

Her library was one of the biggest in American having between 2000 and 3000 books.

Was first recognized as an intellectual at the age of 15 when she excelled knowledge in front of a court during an oral exam.

Wearing the attire of her religious order the Jeronimites.

Considered first feminist of the Americas.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/new-spain/viceroyalty-new-spain/a/cabrera-portrait-of-sor-juana-ins-de-la-cruz>

<https://www.she-philosopher.com/gallery/juana-portraits.html>

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