

Visual Culture in Colonial Latin America

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### **Paper 1**

The purpose of this paper is a) to familiarize you with the contents of Vistas; and b) give you practice in developing comparisons to deepen understanding of a work of art or architecture. For this paper, I would like you to identify a salient or interesting theme in "Political Force of Images." Using Vistas, bring together with two or three other works (two should be from the Vistas Gallery, and the other one or two can be from other periods of art history or contemporary images) that you think allow for an interesting exploration of the central idea. In a paper of 4 pages (1200-1400 words) present a thesis about what this collection says about the theme. For instance, if you were interested in the idea (from Michel Foucault) that political power depends not only on the expression of might by the powerful, but also the acceptance by those ruled, you might choose three objects that show both expression and acceptance, and then discuss how the images help us understand Foucault's idea as it played out in Latin America. The paper should be typed and double spaced, and images should be identified by their Vistas titles. If you introduce non-Vistas images, please make sure you include them as figures in your paper.

Suggested reading:

Michel Foucault, "Panopticism" in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, second edition. Alan Sheridan, trans. New York: Vintage, 1995: 195-228.