

ACISCLO MANZANO. BOSQUEXOS PARA MATEO

24-02-2026 - 26-06-2026

Acisclo Manzano

Acisclo Manzano. Sketches for Mateo

Genesis 2:7: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

The biblical meaning of Adam is “born of the ground.”

Adam is positioned on the left side of the Pórtico de la Gloria, at the beginning of the history of Salvation, right at the entrance to the cathedral—the final destination of the Camino de Santiago. And from stone to clay, and from Mateo to Acisclo; we move to a contemporary workshop with drawings and sketches for a modern-day Pórtico.

Apostles, musicians, and a multitude of angels and other biblical figures, all the way to Santiago, form an imaginative and artistic setting in which the artist places himself at the service of Mateo. Acisclo Manzano transfers his personal vision of Master Mateo’s workshop, with the main premise being the use of clay to reinterpret the Pórtico with a 21st-century perspective.

Before us, we have a neo-figurative group of sculptures featuring deconstructed or fragmented human forms—twisted, with incisions, perforations, and inlays—that reinterpret the classical art to give rise to an avant-garde of volumes, where the primary material is clay, without overlooking the paper sketches.

Manoel Carrete, curator

THE EXHIBITION



Adam and Eve



The apostles

Matthew 10:1

The commissioning of the Twelve

"And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Saint James

Will they come alive? Will they stay stone,
those countenances so realistic,
those marvellous tunics,
those eyes full of life?

You who made them with the help of the Maker,
you with the immortal name, Master Mateo,
from there where you humbly rest
kneeling, tell me.

But you, curly-headed one, when
we touch your saintly head to ours, are silent... so I
pray.

Here Glory reigns, but there,
in that bláckened arcade lies hell
and the sad souls of the damned,
there where every demon gnaws them.

I can't stop staring,
half astonished, half in fear,
for all of them seem to me
a delirium of mortal spectres.

New Leaves (Havana, 1880), Rosalía de Castro. In Title II, *Intimacies*



The martyrs

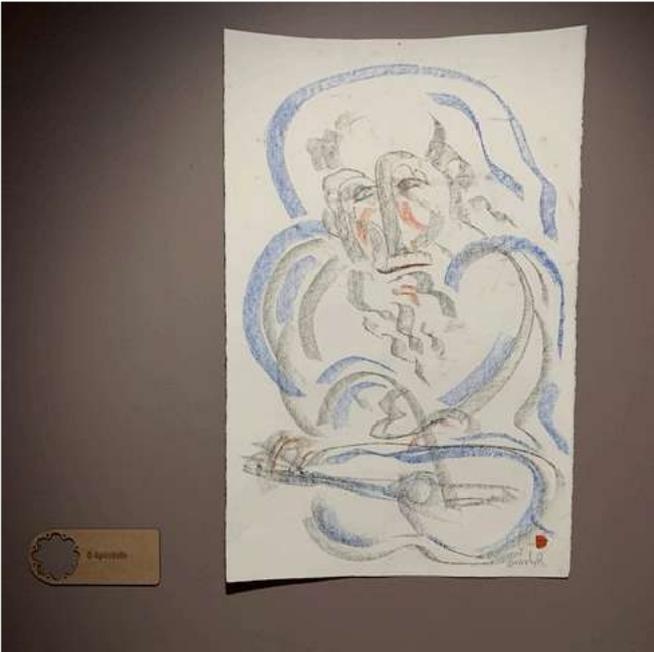
Jeremiah 18:1-6

"The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Arise, and go down to the potter's house', and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter?' saith the LORD. 'Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.'"





Sketches



The Apostle



The Four Evangelists

Revelation 4:6-7

"And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle."

«Había diante do trono coma un mar resplandecente, semellante ao cristal.
E diante do trono e arredor do trono, catro animais, cheos de ollos por diante e por detrás.
O primeiro animal, igual ca un león; o segundo, semellante a un xato;
o terceiro, liña a cara coma de home; e o cuarto, semellante a unha aguiña voando».



The column



The Elders of the Apocalypse

Revelation 4:10-11

"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created'."



The angels



Χριστός

All biblical quotes from **The Kings Bible** (thekingsbible.com).

New leaves verses translated from Galician by Erín Moure (Santiago de Compostela: Xunta de Galicia; Sofia, Bulgaria: Small Stations Press, 2016).

Acisclo Manzano

Sculptor and academician of the Galician Academy of Fine Arts. He studied at the School of Accelerated Professional Training in Ourense and at the Mestre Mateo School of Arts and Crafts in Santiago de Compostela. He was a member of the "O Volter" group in Ourense. He traveled throughout Europe, exploring classical sculpture and the avant-garde movements. Drawing from the latter, in the 1960s he carried out the renewal of Galician sculpture with a Mediterranean and Atlantic vision. During his stay in Ibiza, he came into contact with classical Greece and a new typology of clay.

His work is present in public spaces and institutions such as the Afundación headquarters in Santiago de Compostela, the University of Santiago, the Turgalicia headquarters, the Xunta de Galicia, the Ourense Provincial Council, the Ourense City Council, the Museum of Pontevedra Provincial Council, the Parliament of Galicia, the Diocesan Museum of Santiago de Compostela, and many other locations.

Among other honors, he has been awarded with the Gold Medal of the Province of Ourense (2022), the Foro do Bo Burgo of Castro Caldelas (2024), the Julio Antonio National Medal (1968), and the National Sculpture Award of Spain (1962 and 1968).