

Object and Apparition: Envisioning the Christian Divine in the Colonial Andes

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi

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In 1532, when Christianity first came to the Andes, Spanish colonizers translated Christian texts and music into the native languages and did their damndest to open the hearts of Andeans to the message of Christ, virgin birth, and the notion of salvation. *Object and Apparition* is convincing in its premise that the locals were skeptical until sculptors, painters, and other visual artists “began to use local materials—often metals, pigments, and fibers that were sacred within the Andean worldview—to represent key Christian subjects.”

Catholicism is practiced with a distinct Spanish and indigenous flair in the Andes, and Maya Stanfield-Mazzi's archival research and exploration of the region's principal religious artworks (the book includes fifty-three photos and nine color plates) makes for fascinating reading.

MATT SUTHERLAND (Winter 2014)

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