

Summula Pictoria

a little summary of the Old and New Testaments
in drawings by artist Daniel Mitsui

Over fourteen years, from Easter 2017 to Easter 2031, I plan to draw an iconographic summary of the Old and New Testaments, illustrating events that are prominent in sacred liturgy and patristic exegesis.

The things that I plan to depict are the very raw stuff of Christian belief and Christian art; no other subjects offer an artist such inexhaustible wealth of beauty and symbolism. Were I never to draw them, I would feel my artistic career incomplete. I hope to undertake this task in the spirit of a medieval encyclopedist, who gathers as much traditional wisdom as he can find and faithfully puts it into order. I want every detail of these pictures, whether great or small, to be thoroughly considered and significant.

I am calling this project my *Summula Pictoria: a Little Summary of the Old and New Testaments*. It will be realized as 244 drawings. Collectively, these will form a coherent work; every person, place and thing that appears from picture to picture will be recognizable. Their common style and perspective will reflect a proper theology of time and space, light and darkness, sacred numbers and directions.

The drawings certainly will be influenced by artwork of the past; I defer always to the Fathers in matters of arrangement and disposition. Yet I intend to copy no other work of art directly. Everything in them, whether figures, fabric patterns, architectural ornaments or background landscapes, I shall design myself.

I shall draw the *Summula Pictoria* using metal-tipped dip pens and paintbrushes, with pigment-based inks, on calfskin vellum. The pictures will be in full color. I shall use the calfskin's translucency for artistic effect, drawing extensively on both its front and its back to create each picture.

The cost to commission each 9"×9" picture (numbers 1-40) is \$6075.

The Last Judgment drawing (number 41) costs \$12150 to commission.

The cost to commission each 9"×13.5" picture (numbers 42-55) is \$9113.

The cost to commission each 4.5"×4.5" picture (numbers 56-243) is \$1519.

The Tree of Jesse drawing (number 244) costs \$36450 to commission.

LIFE of JESUS CHRIST

Each of these 40 pictures will measure 9"×9", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 1 Annunciation to Mary
- 2 Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
- 3 Nativity of Jesus Christ
- 4 Circumcision of Jesus Christ
- 5 Adoration of the Magi
- 6 Presentation of Jesus Christ
- 7 Flight into Egypt

- 8 Baptism of Jesus Christ
- 9 Temptation in the Desert
- 10 Wedding at Cana
- 11 Exorcism of the Gerasene Demon
- 12 Cure of the Paralytic
- 13 Cure of the Woman with a Hemorrhage
- 14 Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes
- 15 Jesus Christ Walks on the Water
- 16 Cure of the Man Born Blind
- 17 Transfiguration of Jesus Christ
- 18 Resurrection of Lazarus

- 19 Entry into Jerusalem
- 20 Mary Magdalen Anoints Jesus Christ
- 21 Scouring of the Temple
- 22 Last Supper
- 23 Jesus Christ Washes the Apostles' Feet
- 24 Agony in the Garden
- 25 Arrest of Jesus Christ / Kiss of Judas
- 26 Jesus Christ before Annas & Caiphas
- 27 Jesus Christ Condemned to Death before Pontius Pilate
- 28 Flagellation of Jesus Christ
- 29 Crown of Thorns
- 30 Way of the Cross
- 31 Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- 32 Jesus Christ Pierced with a Lance
- 33 Entombment of Jesus Christ

- 34 Harrowing of Hell
- 35 Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- 36 Jesus Christ Appears to the Apostles
- 37 Ascension of Jesus Christ
- 38 Descent of the Holy Ghost
- 39 Dormition of Mary
- 40 Assumption of Mary

LAST JUDGMENT

This I shall draw at the same scale as the pictures of the Life of Christ; there will be a central panel of the Last Judgment measuring 9"×9", between 4.5"×9" scenes of Heaven and Hell. This arrangement will suggest a winged triptych. It will measure 18"×9" altogether, centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

41 Elect Enter Heaven / Last Judgment / Damned Enter Hell

HALF-LENGTH ICONS

Each of these drawings will portray a single person or angel from the waist up and will measure 9"×13.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 42 Jesus Christ
- 43 Mary
- 44 John the Baptist
- 45 John the Apostle
- 46 Michael the Archangel
- 47 Gabriel the Archangel
- 48 Enoch
- 49 Moses
- 50 Elijah

STANDING ICONS

Each of these drawings will portray a single standing person and will measure 9"×13.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 51 Jesus Christ with the 4 Tetramorphs
- 52 Mary as the Woman of the Apocalypse
- 53 Adam with the 4 Rivers of Paradise
- 54 Eve with the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- 55 David as a Symbol of Music

ANTELAPSARIAN GENESIS

Each of these will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 56 Fall of Lucifer

- 57 First Day of Creation
- 58 Second Day of Creation
- 59 Third Day of Creation
- 60 Fourth Day of Creation
- 61 Fifth Day of Creation
- 62 Sixth Day of Creation
- 63 Seventh Day of Creation

- 64 Creation of Adam
- 65 Adam Names the Animals
- 66 Creation of Eve
- 67 Marriage of Adam & Eve

LAPSARIAN GENESIS

Each of these will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 68 Sin of Adam & Eve
- 69 Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise
- 70 Sacrifice of Abel
- 71 Cain Slays Abel
- 72 Jubal Invents Musical Instruments
- 73 Lamech Slays Cain
- 74 Seth Seeks the Oil of Mercy
- 75 Burial of Adam

- 76 Translation of Enoch

- 77 In the Days of Noah
- 78 Noah, His Family & the Animals Enter the Ark
- 79 Flood Released
- 80 Dove Returns to Noah
- 81 Covenant with Noah

- 82 Shem & Melchizedek Bury Adam's Bones
- 83 Tower of Babel

- 84 Sacrifice of Melchizedek
- 85 Hospitality of Abraham

- 86 Destruction of Sodom
- 87 Isaac Carries Wood for the Sacrifice
- 88 Abraham Sacrifices Isaac

- 89 Isaac Blesses Jacob
- 90 Dream: Jacob's Ladder
- 91 Jacob Wrestles with the Angel
- 92 Dreams: Joseph
- 93 Joseph in the Well
- 94 Dreams: Pharaoh
- 95 Triumph of Joseph
- 96 Joseph's Brothers Bow Before Him & Offer Gifts
- 97 Jacob Blesses Ephrem & Manasseh
- 98 Jacob Blesses his 12 Sons

EXODUS & JOSHUA

Each of these will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 99 Moses & the Burning Bush
- 100 Confrontation with Jannes and Jambres
- 101 First Plague of Egypt
- 102 Second Plague of Egypt
- 103 Third Plague of Egypt
- 104 Fourth Plague of Egypt
- 105 Fifth Plague of Egypt
- 106 Sixth Plague of Egypt
- 107 Seventh Plague of Egypt
- 108 Eighth Plague of Egypt
- 109 Ninth Plague of Egypt
- 110 Tenth Plague of Egypt

- 111 Sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb / Doorposts Marked with Blood
- 112 Children of Israel Led by the Pillar & Cloud
- 113 Children of Israel Cross the Red Sea
- 114 Fall of Manna
- 115 Moses Strikes the Rock at Horeb
- 116 Moses Destroys the Tablets
- 117 Moses Receives the Law
- 118 Consecration of the Tabernacle
- 119 Spies Carry Grapes from the Promised Land
- 120 Fall of Dathan & Abiram
- 121 Aaron's Flowering Rod
- 122 Moses & the Brazen Serpent
- 123 Balaam's Ass
- 124 Contest for the Body of Moses

- 125 Joshua Brings the Ark of the Covenant across Jordan
- 126 Fall of Jericho
- 127 Joshua & the Miracle of the Sun

JUDGES, KINGS & PROPHETS

Each of these will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

- 128 Gideon's Fleece
- 129 Gideon's 300

- 130 Samson Slays the Lion
- 131 Samson Carries the Gates of Gaza
- 132 Samson & Delilah
- 133 Death of Samson

- 134 Presentation of Samuel

- 135 Samuel Anoints David
- 136 David Plays his Harp before Saul
- 137 David Slays Goliath

- 138 David Eats the Bread of Achimelech
- 139 David Cuts the Hem of Saul's Garment
- 140 Saul & the Witch of Endor

- 141 David Brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
- 142 David & Bathsheba
- 143 Nathan's Parable / David Repents

- 144 David Mourns Absalom
- 145 Three Heroes Bring Water to David
- 146 David Sacrifices to Stay the Plague

- 147 Judgment of Solomon
- 148 Consecration of the First Temple
- 149 Queen of Sheba at the Bridge
- 150 Queen of Sheba visits Solomon's Throne

- 151 Widow of Sarepta Carries Sticks
- 152 Elijah Blesses the Pot of Meal & the Oil Cruse
- 153 Elijah Raises the Widow of Sarepta's Son

- 154 Immolation of Elijah's Sacrifice
- 155 Translation of Elijah
- 156 Elisha Blesses the Oil Cruse

- 157 Elisha Raises the Widow of Sunam's Son

- 158 Ezekieh Destroys the Brazen Serpent
- 159 Destruction of Sennacherib
- 160 Ezekieh & the Miracle of the Sundial

- 161 Jonah in the Sea
- 162 Jonah Emerges from the Great Fish
- 163 Repentance of Nineveh

- 164 Vision: Valley of Dry Bones
- 165 Vision: Closed Eastern Gate in the Temple
- 166 Vision: Water Flowing from the Temple
- 167 Vision: Foreheads of the Just Marked with Tau

- 168 Vision: First Tetramorph, Man
- 169 Vision: Second Tetramorph, Lion
- 170 Vision: Third Tetramorph, Ox
- 171 Vision: Fourth Tetramorph, Eagle

- 172 Jeremiah Hides the Ark of the Covenant
- 173 Martyrdom of Isaiah
- 174 Martyrdom of Jeremiah
- 175 Martyrdom of Ezekiel

- 176 Transmigration into Babylon
- 177 Destruction of the First Temple

- 178 Dream: Nebuchadnezzar's Statue
- 179 Shadrach, Mesach & Abednego in the Furnace
- 180 Dream: Nebuchadnezzar's Tree
- 181 Madness & Repentance of Nebuchadnezzar

- 182 Belshazzar's Feast
- 183 Daniel Slays the Dragon
- 184 Habacuc Visits Daniel in the Lion's Den

- 185 Transmigration out of Babylon
- 186 Consecration of the Second Temple

NEW TESTAMENT

Each of these pictures will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum. These are events in the New Testament where Jesus Christ is not bodily present, or is disguised. Some of them (such as the infancy of Mary and the deaths of the Apostles) are known from extrabiblical tradition.

- 187 Kiss at the Golden Gate
- 188 Nativity of Mary
- 189 Presentation of Mary
- 190 Espousals of Mary & Joseph

- 191 Annunciation to Zachary
- 192 Nativity of John the Baptist
- 193 Circumcision of John the Baptist
- 194 Elizabeth and John the Baptist Flee the Massacre

- 195 Annunciation to the Shepherds
- 196 Triburtine Sibyl & Augustus

- 197 Massacre of the Innocents
- 198 Fall of the Idols of Hermopolis

- 199 Testimony of John the Baptist on Earth
- 200 Decollation of John the Baptist
- 201 Testimony of John the Baptist in Limbo

- 202 Parable: Good Samaritan
- 203 Parable: Prodigal Son
- 204 Parable: Wise & Foolish Virgins

- 205 Parable: Sower
- 206 Parable: Laborers in the Vineyard
- 207 Parable: Good Shepherd

- 208 Parable: Wheat & Cockle
- 209 Parable: Net Cast into the Sea

- 210 Judas Betrays Jesus Christ
- 211 Suicide of Judas
- 212 Peter Denies Jesus Christ
- 213 Peter Repents

- 214 Women at the Tomb
- 215 Peter & John at the Tomb
- 216 Mary Magdalen & the Gardener
- 217 Road to Emmaus

- 218 Matthew Writes his Gospel
- 219 Mark Writes his Gospel
- 220 Luke Writes his Gospel
- 221 John's Writes his Gospel

- 222 Martyrdom of Stephen
- 223 Conversion of Paul
- 224 Peter Defeats Simon Magus
- 225 Dionysius & Hierotheos See the Eclipse
- 226 Paul in the Areopagus

- 227 John the Apostle Plunged in Boiling Oil
- 228 Martyrdom of Peter
- 229 Martyrdom of Paul
- 230 Martyrdom of Andrew
- 231 Martyrdom of James the Greater
- 232 Martyrdom of Thomas
- 233 Martyrdom of James the Less
- 234 Martyrdom of Philip
- 235 Martyrdom of Batholomew
- 236 Martyrdom of Matthew
- 237 Martyrdom of Simon & Jude
- 238 Martyrdom of Matthias
- 239 Death & Assumption of John the Apostle

- 240 Destruction of the Second Temple

- 241 Testimony of Enoch & Elijah
- 242 Martyrdom of Enoch & Elijah
- 243 Assumption of Enoch & Elijah

TREE of JESSE

I shall draw this measuring approximately 18"×27", on a full skin with untrimmed edges.

- 244 Tree of Jesse with a Procession of Prophets

Please note that to complete this project feasibly, I cannot include every single event described in the Holy Scriptures. I have selected events that are most prominent in sacred liturgy and patristic exegesis. Certain books of the Holy Scriptures I have excluded for other reasons. The Psalms I am illustrating in a separate commission; the Book of Job, the Song of Songs and the Apocalypse are so exceptional in their imagery that I want to treat them separately as well.

I am accepting commissions for works apart from the *Summula Pictoria*, so please do not hesitate to discuss with me commissions to draw persons or events not included in this list.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Mitsui

danielmitsuiartist@gmail.com

www.danielmitsui.com