

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 those events that are most 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 235 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 42-54) is \$9113.

The cost to commission each 4.5"×4.5" picture (numbers 55-234) is \$1519.

The Tree of Jesse drawing (number 235) 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. I am eager to juxtapose events in the life of Jesus Christ with their Old Testament prefigurements, and have listed in italics some suggestions for pictures that might be commissioned together with them.

- 1 Annunciation to Mary
 - 95 *Moses & the Burning Bush*
 - 123 *Gideon's Fleece*
 - 116 *Aaron's Flowering Rod*
 - or
 - 63 *Creation of Adam*
 - 67 *Sin of Adam & Eve [in reverse]*

- 2 Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

- 3 Nativity of Jesus Christ
 - 157 *Vision: Closed Eastern Gate in the Temple*
 - 176 *Habacuc Visits Daniel in the Lion's Den*
 - 169 *Dream: Nebuchadnezzar's Statue*

- 4 Circumcision of Jesus Christ

- 5 Adoration of the Magi
 - 139 *Three Heroes Bring Water to David*
 - 143 *Queen of Sheba visits Solomon's Throne*
 - 92 *Joseph's Brothers Bow Before Him & Offer Gifts*

- 6 Presentation of Jesus Christ

- 7 Flight into Egypt

- 8 Baptism of Jesus Christ
 - 108 *Children of Israel Cross the Red Sea*
 - 77 *Dove Returns to Noah*
 - 120 *Joshua Brings the Ark of the Covenant across Jordan*

- 9 Temptation in the Desert
 - 125 *Samson Slays the Lion*
 - 131 *David Slays Goliath*
 - 174 *Daniel Slays the Dragon*

- 10 Wedding at Cana
 - 66 *Marriage of Adam & Eve*

- 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
145 *Elijah Blesses the Pot of Meal & the Oil Cruse*
- 15 Jesus Christ Walks on the Water
- 16 Cure of the Man Born Blind
- 17 Transfiguration of Jesus Christ
81 *Hospitality of Abraham*
87 *Jacob Wrestles with the Angel*
170 *Shadrach, Mesach & Abednego in the Furnace*
- 18 Resurrection of Lazarus
146 *Elijah Raises the Widow of Sarepta's Son*
- 19 Entry into Jerusalem
109 *Fall of Manna*
78 *Covenant with Noah*
- 20 Mary Magdalen Anoints Jesus Christ
- 21 Scouring of the Temple
- 22 Last Supper
69 *Sacrifice of Abel*
84 *Abraham Sacrifices Isaac*
80 *Sacrifice of Melchizedec*
- 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
83 *Isaac Carries Wood for the Sacrifice*
144 *Widow of Sarepta Carries Sticks*
- 31 Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
84 *Abraham Sacrifices Isaac*
114 *Spies Carry Grapes from the Promised Land*
117 *Moses & the Brazen Serpent*
93 *Jacob Blesses Ephrem & Manasseh*
- 32 Jesus Christ Pierced with a Lance
158 *Vision: Water Flowing from the Temple*
110 *Moses Strikes the Rock at Horeb*
106 *Sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb / Doorposts Marked with Blood*
159 *Vision: Foreheads of the Just Marked with Tau*
or
65 *Creation of Eve*
68 *Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise [in reverse]*
- 33 Entombment of Jesus Christ
89 *Joseph in the Well*
153 *Jonah in the Sea*
- 34 Harrowing of Hell
- 35 Resurrection of Jesus Christ
91 *Triumph of Joseph*
126 *Samson Carries the Gates of Gaza*
149 *Elisha Raises the Widow of Sunam's Son*
154 *Jonah Emerges from the Great Fish*
- 36 Jesus Christ Appears to the Apostles
- 37 Ascension of Jesus Christ
73 *Translation of Enoch*
86 *Dream: Jacob's Ladder*
148 *Translation of Elijah*
- 38 Descent of the Holy Ghost
112 *Moses Receives the Law*
147 *Immolation of Elijah's Sacrifice*
or
64 *Adam Names the Animals*
79 *Tower of Babel [in reverse]*
- 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 David as a Symbol of Music

ANTELAPSARIAN GENESIS

Each of these 12 will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

55	Fall of Lucifer
56	First Day of Creation
57	Second Day of Creation
58	Third Day of Creation
59	Fourth Day of Creation
60	Fifth Day of Creation
61	Sixth Day of Creation
62	Seventh Day of Creation
63	Creation of Adam
64	Adam Names the Animals
65	Creation of Eve
66	Marriage of Adam & Eve

LAPSARIAN GENESIS

Each of these 28 will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

67	Sin of Adam & Eve
68	Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise
69	Sacrifice of Abel
70	Cain Slays Abel
71	Lamech Slays Cain
72	Seth Seeks the Oil of Mercy
73	Translation of Enoch
74	In the Days of Noah
75	Noah, His Family & the Animals Enter the Ark
76	Flood Released
77	Dove Returns to Noah
78	Covenant with Noah
79	Tower of Babel

80	Sacrifice of Melchizedek
81	Hospitality of Abraham
82	Destruction of Sodom
83	Isaac Carries Wood for the Sacrifice
84	Abraham Sacrifices Isaac
85	Isaac Blesses Jacob
86	Dream: Jacob's Ladder
87	Jacob Wrestles with the Angel
88	Dreams: Joseph
89	Joseph in the Well
90	Dreams: Pharaoh
91	Triumph of Joseph
92	Joseph's Brothers Bow Before Him & Offer Gifts
93	Jacob Blesses Ephrem & Manasseh
94	Jacob Blesses his 12 Sons

EXODUS & JOSHUA

Each of these 28 will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

95	Moses & the Burning Bush
96	First Plague of Egypt
97	Second Plague of Egypt
98	Third Plague of Egypt
99	Fourth Plague of Egypt
100	Fifth Plague of Egypt
101	Sixth Plague of Egypt
102	Seventh Plague of Egypt
103	Eighth Plague of Egypt
104	Ninth Plague of Egypt
105	Tenth Plague of Egypt
106	Sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb / Doorposts Marked with Blood
107	Children of Israel Led by the Pillar & Cloud
108	Children of Israel Cross the Red Sea
109	Fall of Manna
110	Moses Strikes the Rock at Horeb
111	Moses Destroys the Tablets
112	Moses Receives the Law
113	Consecration of the Tabernacle
114	Spies Carry Grapes from the Promised Land
115	Damnation of Dathan & Abiram
116	Aaron's Flowering Rod

117	Moses & the Brazen Serpent
118	Balaam's Ass
119	Contest for the Body of Moses
120	Joshua Brings the Ark of the Covenant across Jordan
121	Fall of Jericho
122	Joshua & the Miracle of the Sun

JUDGES, KINGS & PROPHETS

Each of these 56 will measure 4.5"×4.5", centered on a larger piece of calfskin vellum.

123	Gideon's Fleece
124	Gideon's 300
125	Samson Slays the Lion
126	Samson Carries the Gates of Gaza
127	Samson & Delilah
128	Death of Samson
129	Samuel Anoints David
130	David Plays his Harp before Saul
131	David Slays Goliath
132	David Eats the Bread of Achimelech
133	David Cuts the Hem of Saul's Garment
134	Saul & the Witch of Endor
135	David Brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
136	David & Bathsheba
137	Nathan's Parable / David Repents
138	David Mourns Absalom
139	Three Heroes Bring Water to David
140	David Sacrifices to Stay the Plague
141	Judgment of Solomon
142	Consecration of the First Temple
143	Queen of Sheba visits Solomon's Throne
144	Widow of Sarepta Carries Sticks
145	Elijah Blesses the Pot of Meal & the Oil Cruse
146	Elijah Raises the Widow of Sarepta's Son
147	Immolation of Elijah's Sacrifice
148	Translation of Elijah

149	Elisha Raises the Widow of Sunam's Son
150	Ezekieh Destroys the Brazen Serpent
151	Destruction of Sennacherib
152	Ezekieh & the Miracle of the Sundial
153	Jonah in the Sea
154	Jonah Emerges from the Great Fish
155	Repentance of Nineveh
156	Vision: Valley of Dry Bones
157	Vision: Closed Eastern Gate in the Temple
158	Vision: Water Flowing from the Temple
159	Vision: Foreheads of the Just Marked with Tau
160	Vision: First Tetramorph, Man
161	Vision: Second Tetramorph, Lion
162	Vision: Third Tetramorph, Ox
163	Vision: Fourth Tetramorph, Eagle
164	Martyrdom of Isaiah
165	Martyrdom of Jeremiah
166	Martyrdom of Ezekiel
167	Transmigration into Babylon
168	Destruction of the First Temple
169	Dream: Nebuchadnezzar's Statue
170	Shadrach, Mesach & Abednego in the Furnace
171	Dream: Nebuchadnezzar's Tree
172	Madness & Repentance of Nebuchadnezzar
173	Atrocity of Evilmerodach
174	Daniel Slays the Dragon
175	Belshazzar's Feast
176	Habacuc Visits Daniel in the Lion's Den
177	Transmigration out of Babylon
178	Consecration of the Second Temple

NEW TESTAMENT

Each of these 56 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.

179	Kiss at the Golden Gate
180	Nativity of Mary
181	Presentation of Mary
182	Espousals of Mary & Joseph
183	Annunciation to Zachary
184	Nativity of John the Baptist
185	Circumcision of John the Baptist
186	Annunciation to the Shepherds
187	Triburtine Sibyl & Augustus / Destruction of the Temple of Peace
188	Massacre of the Innocents
189	Egyptian Statue of a Virgin & Child / Fall of the Idols of Hermopolis
190	Testimony of John the Baptist on Earth
191	Decollation of John the Baptist
192	Testimony of John the Baptist in Limbo
193	Parable: Good Samaritan
194	Parable: Prodigal Son
195	Parable: Wise & Foolish Virgins
196	Parable: Sower
197	Parable: Laborers in the Vineyard
198	Parable: Good Shepherd
199	Parable: Wheat & Cockle
200	Parable: Net Cast into the Sea
201	Judas Betrays Jesus Christ
202	Suicide of Judas
203	Peter Denies Jesus Christ
204	Peter Repents
205	Women at the Tomb
206	Peter & John at the Tomb
207	Mary Magdalen & the Gardener
208	Road to Emmaus

209	Election of Matthias
210	Martyrdom of Stephen
211	Conversion of Paul
212	Matthew Writes his Gospel
213	Mark Writes his Gospel
214	Luke Paints the Virgin
215	John's Vision on Patmos
216	Martyrdom of John the Apostle
217	Paul in the Areopagus
218	Peter Defeats Simon Magus
219	Martyrdom of Peter
220	Martyrdom of Paul
221	Martyrdom of Andrew
222	Martyrdom of James the Greater
223	Martyrdom of Thomas
224	Martyrdom of James the Less
225	Martyrdom of Philip
226	Martyrdom of Batholomew
227	Martyrdom of Matthew
228	Martyrdom of Simon & Jude
229	Martyrdom of Matthias
230	Death & Assumption of John the Apostle
231	Destruction of the Second Temple
232	Testimony of Enoch & Elijah
233	Martyrdom of Enoch & Elijah
234	Assumption of Enoch & Elijah

TREE of JESSE

I shall draw this measuring 18"×27", if I am able to find a large enough piece of flat calfskin vellum. Most likely I will draw it on a full skin with untrimmed edges.

235 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,

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