Emiro Martínez-Osorio  
(York University)

“Chieftains: Mural Painting and Indigenous Elites in the Andes”

Wed., 26 February 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Senior Common Room  
Victoria College (rear of 91 Charles St. West) University of Toronto

This talk examines the portraits of indigenous elites included in the series of mural paintings that adorn the lateral walls of the small church of Sutatausa. Up until now, the mural paintings at Sutatausa have been studied in the context of Easter liturgical celebrations or in terms of the reconfiguration of sacred spaces. This presentation will examine the intersection between the civic and religious functions of these portraits in relation to the emerging cult to the Virgin of Chiquinquirá and the elaborate murals that adorn the colonial houses in the city of Tunja (Colombia).

Emiro Martínez-Osorio (PhD University of Texas at Austin 2009) is Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at York University and author of Authority, Piracy and Captivity in Colonial Spanish America: Juan de Castellanos’ Elegies of Illustrious Men of the Indies (2016).

Image: Unknown artist, Portrait of an indigenous female chieftain (ca. 1600)