



Artesanos Don Bosco®

a r t

t h r o u g h

C H A R I T Y



wood



stone



glass



paint



metal



C H A R I T Y

The work shown here, entirely hand-made, combines beauty, artistic quality, harmonious design, and fine detail. The materials - wood, stone, glass, paints and metals - are carefully selected and worked in a distinctive style. This artwork has something extra that distinguishes it: it has the lights and shadows of Christian charity, that is, love of all people and pursuit of the common good

The art of wood carving is very ancient and is found in all civilizations. The sculpture and carving techniques used here are centuries old. We use cedar, linden, mahogany and cherry wood in the sculptures and furnishings. Each type of wood yields a different result and requires knowledge of specific techniques. The art of sculpting stone and white or colored marble is also very ancient. Copper is a very malleable metal when cold, so it can be worked without being heated. Repeated hammering hardens the copper, making it both thinner and harder.



wood



stone



glass



Artesanos Don Bosco

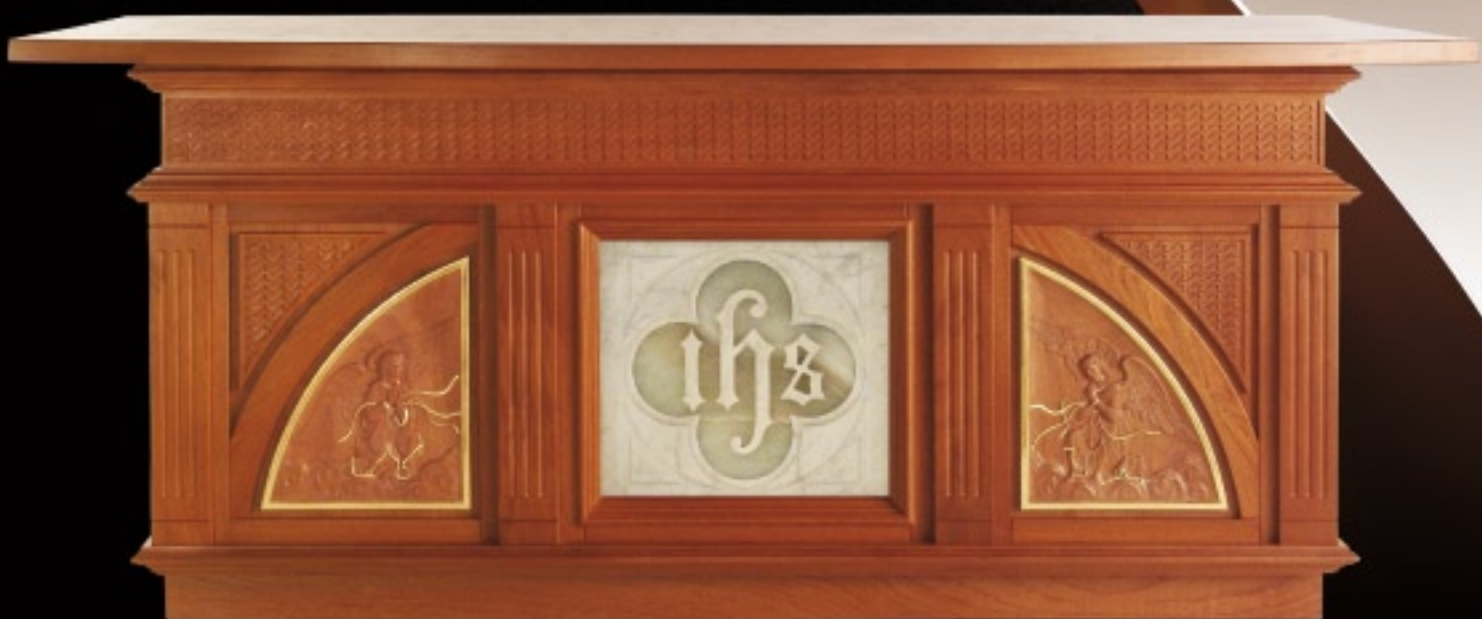


Artesanos Del Bosco®





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Sculpture is a difficult and ambitious art. Wood is the most suitable material for young artists to express themselves and thrill viewers. Father Hugo had the great idea of offering youth a way to discover the highest values of life through the beauty of art. We start by sketching ideas for wood sculptures on paper. These designs are created in three dimensions in clay, the most suitable material for creativity. In the full-scale clay model we define motion, volumes, and proportions. Moving on to the wood, details are perfected, and faces and hands become more expressive.





stone



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The antiquity of stone and marble expresses a feeling of eternity... Eternity that comes to life through the patient hands of the young artisans of the Andes who, by using techniques transmitted from generation to generation, discover things that have been jealously guarded for millennia.

The materials used in our sculptures are carefully chosen marble and stone, whose form, color, and hardness, express the sensitivity of each artist.

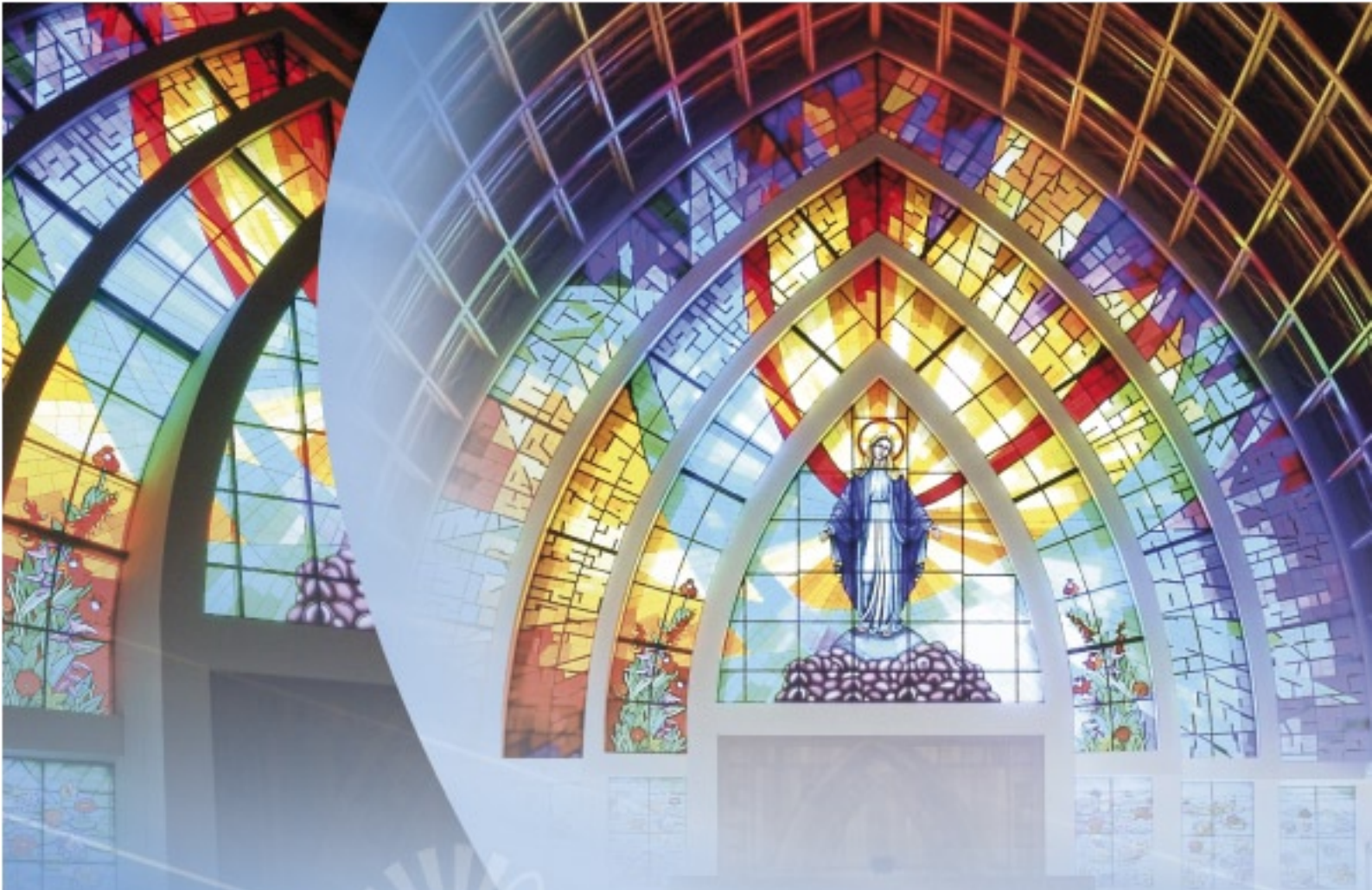




glass







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In the art of the stained glass windows, the artist first creates a drawing which is then transferred to translucent paper. Colors and glasses are then chosen. The pieces of glass are connected with lead, following the medieval technique of creating a mosaic with the panels. Artisans use the technique of "large fire" painting on the glass to emphasize faces or details that cannot be achieved with the simple shaping of the glass. Painting on glass is a technique "by removal." After drawing, the color is toned down with very soft brushes to create shadows and highlights.

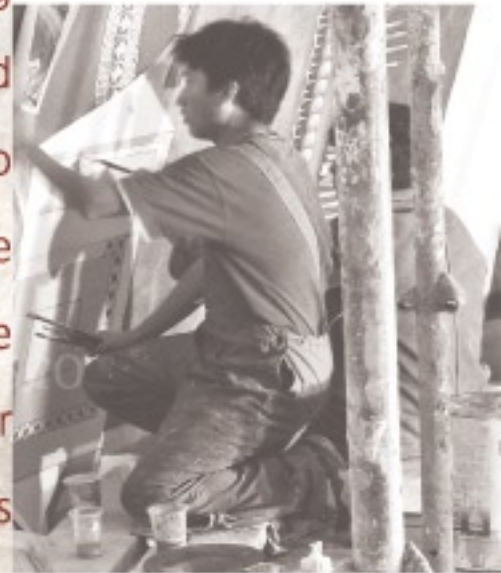




paint



Painting is the art of representing, through drawing and colors, shapes or objects on a surface. The artist conceives the graphic image of the work in the creative period before and during the execution. The various painting techniques are distinguished by the types of liquid used to prepare the color. The surface determines what liquid will be used to suspend the color pigment. The artist considers how well the liquid will adhere to the surface and how much of the color will be absorbed by the surface. For example, in oil painting, substances are mixed into the paint to facilitate the adhesion of the color to the surface.





metal



The soul's affinity and desire for beauty and goodness is part of our human inheritance. The creative work of the young artists and craftsmen is a material expression of their deepest feelings. In the hands of a young craftsman, the metal subjected to high temperatures and under the beatings of a hammer, a chisel, or a burin traces, takes shape and conquers the heart of its worker by making him "feel it" just as in the union between creature and creator. The work begins with the design, in a tough but enthusiastic moment of creativity, and it reaches the eyes and hands of those who appreciate it. As though the work, speaking for the worker, says, "This is what I have taught myself and what I can do. In this there is my hope, my suffering, and my desire, and for this I would like to give thanks. "Art, especially sacred art, in whatever material - wood, metal, marble or glass - opens a path for the soul towards the search for spirituality.



In 1967 Operation Mato Grosso was founded.

It is an initiative born in the heart and imagination of a Salesian priest from Valtellina, Northern Italy: Father Hugo De Censi, who was anxious to restore meaning to the lives of young people tired of religious words and empty gestures.

"Enough talk, let's get to the facts" is the motto used to start this adventure.

Hundreds of youths in Italy, working in a group as a team in working camps, collect money to send to the missions, and go themselves to live among the poorest for months and years.

In the Andes, at elevations of 10,000-12,000 feet, in remote villages along the slopes, the youths meet many poor people and children.

Peru does not offer them many choices: just mountains with arid plains, a desert along the coast, and big cities with their endless "barriadas" (slums).

Father Hugo is a dreamer, like Don Bosco.

He dreams that poor and abandoned children in the high Andes may have a future, perhaps becoming artists.

In 1979 the first school of carpentry was born. With the help of a master carver from Cuzco, Peru, and later the aid of sculptors from Ortisei, Italy, a town in the Alps with a long tradition of wood carving, the school of carpentry became a school of carving and sculpture.

It's a challenge!



Beginning with the first orphans, we have now reached and trained over 700 youths!!

The school is free. Students receive education, training, room and board. They are accepted according to the poverty of their families.

The school lasts 5 years and is officially recognized by the government. On graduation, the students receive the professional qualification of "carver".


As a result of the trade schools, the ARTESANOS DON BOSCO family was born.

"...we try to give them work to keep them close to their land, their people, their values, so that they may be good and generous, and help those who most need them. That they may not be conquered by the modern world, from falsity, and deceived by artificial lights."

The works shown in this catalog are made by these youths, who are now carvers, sculptors, painters, engravers: real artists.

In order to support the "Artesanos Don Bosco Family" and the work done by the "Operazione Mato Grosso", the "Don Bosco 3A Association" was founded in Italy.

The volunteers of the "Don Bosco 3A Association" give their time and live the spirit of generosity that Father Hugo wanted to communicate with his life, spent with young people working for the benefit of the poor.



C H A R I T Y

I need to go back in time and tell an important part of my life which summarizes these thirty-four years in the Andes of Peru.

I came to Peru to give an example to the OMCy youths in Italy, and to help the poor. I thought what I wanted to do as a priest: to comply with the religious services people asked me... I was OK thinking that I would die in the Andes.

I spent my first two years this way, celebrating Masses for the dead, asking for health, for the rain, to abate the pests that ruin the potatoes...

I walked from village to village; it was the only way to know my parish. I was not worried about where I would sleep or eat.

In that time I saw the hospitality of the "campesino" farmers. From the beginning people called me "Father," the way they call priests here.

So I felt the need to become a real father for my so poor people.

What I concretely had to do was suggested to me by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mama Ashu, patroness of Chacas.

It was by looking at the carvings and paintings of the altar that I discovered a way to really help the children of this land.

"Hugo, you have to restore the altar, but not by means of experienced masters"

I took home some poor children to teach them the woodwork, carpentry and carving, so that they could restore the altar. The "tabler Don Bosco/Don Bosco trade school" was thus born (in 1979): a completely free boarding school that would accept poor children and educate them to love, work, art, and faith in God.

Creating such a school here in the Andes, far from the main roads and where everything has to come from Lima, takes twice the effort.

I found two teachers: a local carpenter who for me has been a real brother, and a woodcarver from Lima.

It was an adventure that blossomed before I knew it. The youths became passionate, and sometimes they stayed on until deep night to carry out the work.

From the few books we had, they learned, by copying, the colonial style.

Over the years, gradually, they opened their horizons to art.

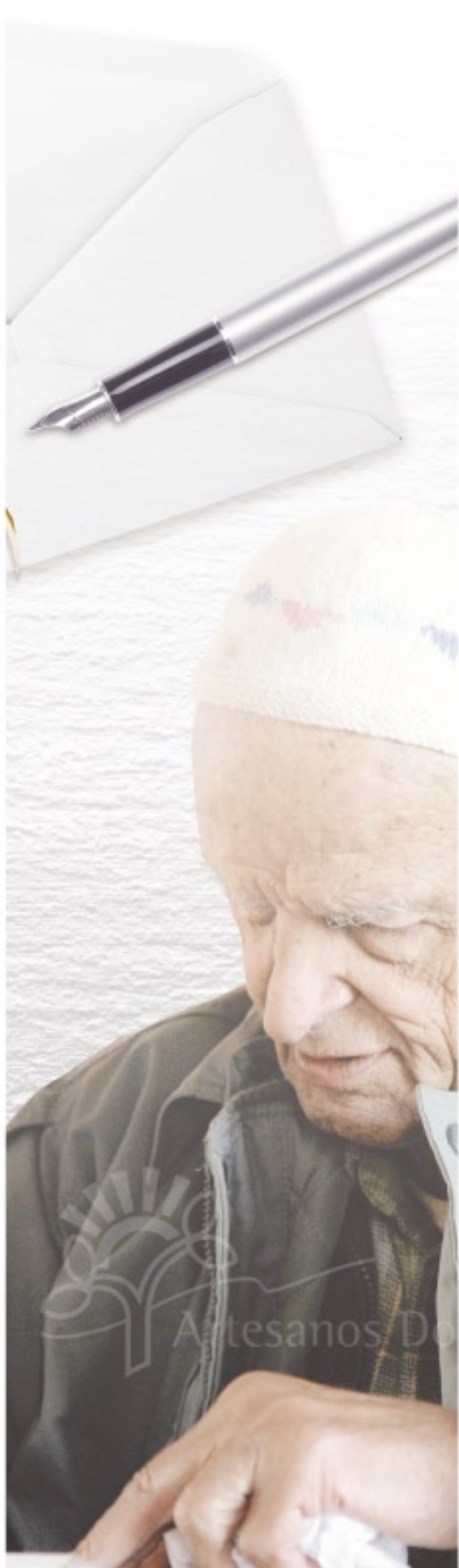
Everything has grown now...

If I look at this story, from the beginning until now, I am surprised and moved.

And like a child I dare to believe that everything is done under the maternal gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary that showed the steps to do and supported the spirit of Christian charity.

This Christian charity speaks of God's love even if does not use religious words. It is made of concrete gestures, love, and sacrifice.

P. Hugo De Censi



Artesanos Don Bosco

828 S Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21230

410 563 4577

410 662 7423

info@artesanosdonbosco.com

www.artesanosdonbosco.com

