

### Activity 3: Food in Casta Paintings

Look at the Casta paintings shown below and discuss the role that the food plays in each.

- What does the food represent?
- What kind of food is shown in the picture and who is pictured with this food/who is cooking?
- How does the food relate to hybridization?
- How does the food shown represent the European perceptions of the difference between Spaniards and Indigenous people?
- How do these paintings show the different treatments/perceptions of people of different races?



Attributed to Juan Rodríguez Juárez, *Indios otomites que van a la feria* (Otomí Indians on the Way to the Fair), ca. 1715, oil on canvas, 80.7 x 105.4 cm. Breamore House, Hampshire, England.



José de Páez, *De español y negra, mulato*. 6. (From Spaniard and Black, Mulatto), ca. 1770-80, oil on copper, 50.2 x 63.8 cm. Private collection.



Attributed to José de Ibarra, *De español y negra, mulato* (From Spaniard and Black, Mulatto), ca. 1725, oil on canvas, 164 x 91 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Attributed to José de Ibarra, *De español y de morisca, albino* (From Spaniard and Morisca, Albino), ca. 1725, oil on canvas, 164 x 91 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Francisco Clapera, 1. *De español e india, mestiza* (From Spaniard and Indian, Mestiza), ca. 1785, oil on canvas, 54 x 40.5 cm. Denver Art Museum, Collection of Jan and Frederick Mayer.



Miguel Cabrera, 9. *De negro y de india. China cambuja* (From Black and Indian, China Cambuja), 1763, oil on canvas, 132 x 101 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Miguel Cabrera, 11. *De lobo y de india, albarazado* (From Wolf and Indian, Albarazado), 1763, oil on canvas, 132 x 101 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Andrés de Islas, No. 4. *De español y negra, nace mulata* (From Spaniard and Black, a Mulatta is Born), 1774, oil on canvas, 75 x 54 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Ramón Torres, 1. *De español e india, sale mestizo* (Spaniard and Indian Makes Mestizo), ca. 1770-80, oil on copper, 32 x 42.5 cm. Private collection.



Unknown artist, *De español y negra, nace mulata* (From Spaniard and Black, a Mulatta is Born), ca. 1785-90, oil on canvas, 62.6 x 83.2 cm. Private collection.



Unknown artist, *De zambaigo e india, nace albarazado* (From Zambaigo and Indian, an Albarazado is Born), ca. 1785-90, oil on canvas, 62.6 x 83.2 cm. Private collection.



Luis de Mena, casta painting, ca. 1750, oil on canvas, 120 x 104 cm. Museo de América, Madrid.



Cacao, from Pedro Alonso O'Crowley's *Idea compendiosa del reino de la Nueva España* (1774).  
Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid.