



Orozco painted sixteen panels dedicated to many technological, scientific, and artistic developments associated with modernity around the central dome. Among them we find the portrait of a mythological character, Icarus, who falls from the skies with its melting wings.

The artist uses this myth to warn us about the consequences of ambition, and invites us to reflect on the necessary balance when we conceive knowledge as an element of creation and transformation.

Orozco's Icarus accompanies many human creations, such as pottery, sculpture, and agriculture, which all require equilibrium. For example, the right amount of ingredients need to be added when making a vase or it will burst while being cooked, sculpting with too much strength destroys the material, and exploiting the earth without measure creates imbalances in the ecosystem.

The panels around the dome invite us to think of this myth as a metaphor for the potential of knowledge to be both destructive and creative, as evidenced by history. For example, Alfred Nobel and Albert Einstein never thought their contributions to science would be used for war, and they regretted the consequences of their work because of it.

Icarus' story offers a moral about how curiosity and rebellion, essential qualities for creation, innovation, and transformation, can sometimes have negative effects.

About the myth of Icarus

Daedalus was an architect and artisan and among his creations was the labyrinth that enclosed the Cretan Minotaur. As punishment for suggesting a way in which Theseus could escape, Minos, king of Crete, locked Daedalus and his son, Icarus, in the labyrinth.

Since they couldn't escape by sea since it was watched by Minos, Daedalus fabricated wings with feathers and wax for himself and his son. When both determined they could fly with them, Daedalus warned his son not to fly too close to the Sun, for it would melt the wax, and not too close to the sea, for the foam would soak the wings and make them too heavy.

They took flight, but ambition and pride led Icarus high above, close to the Sun. Its heat melted the wax that held the feathers together, they came apart, and Icarus fell to his death. It was then that Daedalus cursed at his creations, for creativity and arrogance can mix for catastrophic results.

