

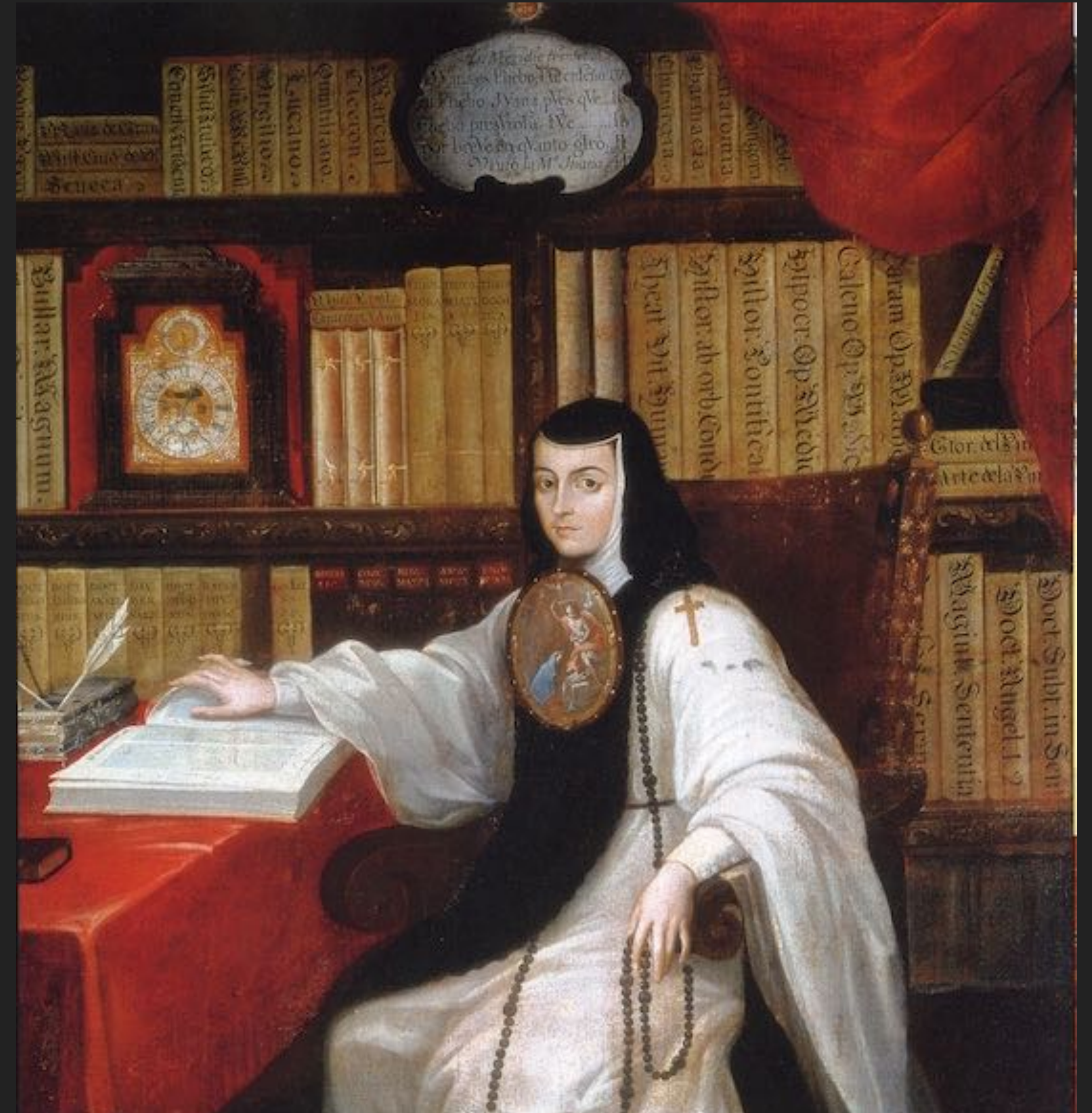
99. PORTRAIT OF SOR
JUANA INÉS DE LA CRUZ.
MIGUEL CABRERA. C. 1750
C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.

SOR JUANA



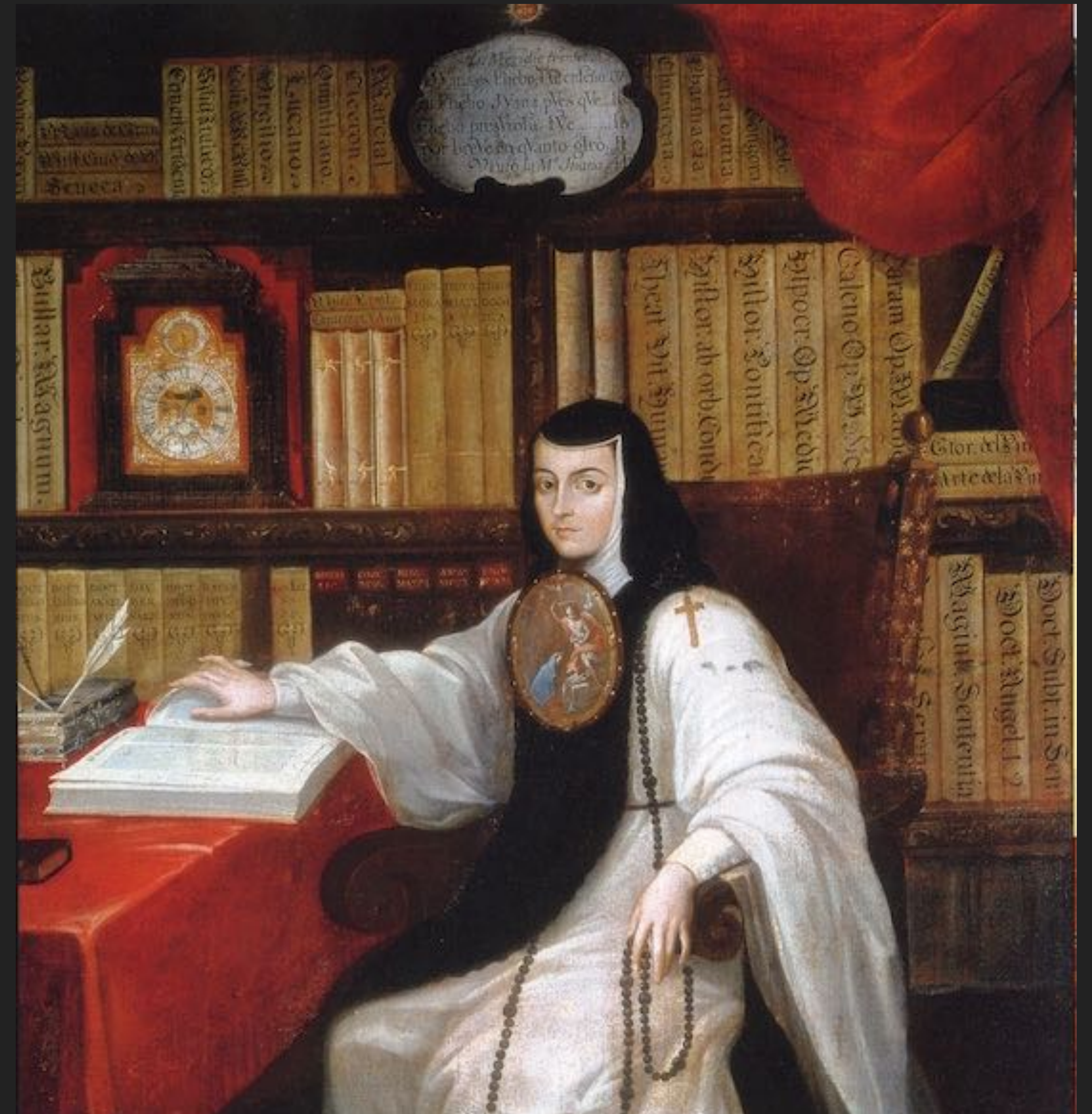
FORM

- ▶ It is realistic in the Neoclassical style.
 - ▶ Neoclassicism was a movement in art and architecture that drew inspiration from classical antiquity (think Romans and Greeks)



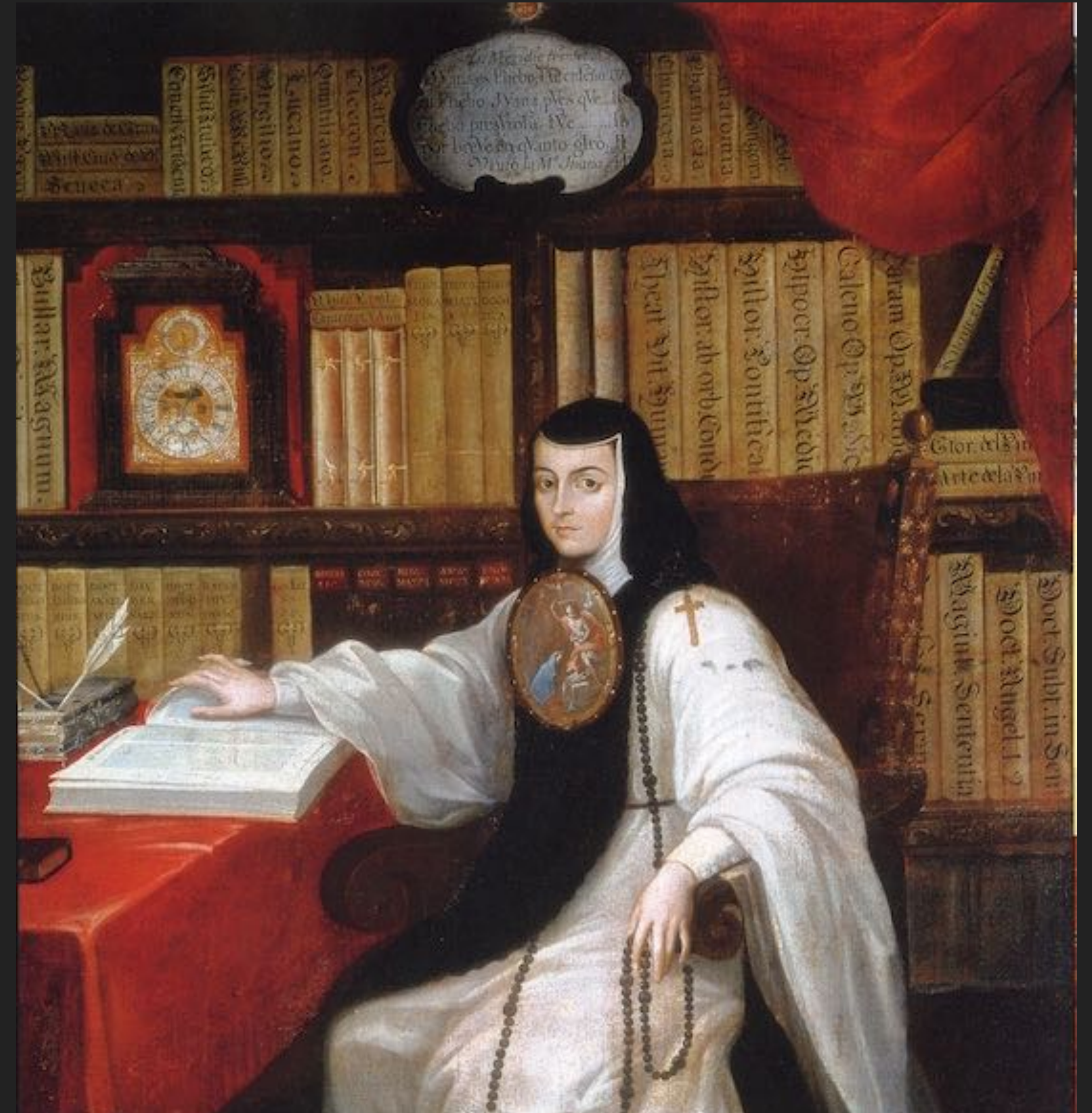
FUNCTION

- ▶ It is a portrait.
 - ▶ Artist: Miguel Cabrera
 - ▶ Inspiration = previous portraits of Sor Juana and the portrait of St. Jerome (see below); because this portrait was painted after her death
 - ▶ He wanted to portray her as a religious symbol as well as an intellectual. He was portraying her as a hero (Neoclassical ideal) but not in the traditional sense



CONTEXT

- ▶ Sor Juana was considered one of the first feminist of the Americas because she joined a religious order and became a nun in order to pursue her intellectual interests
- ▶ Engaged in debate with philosophers and scientists of the time
- ▶ Instead of marrying, she decided to pursue her intellectual passion in a Carmelite convent before converting to the Jeroimite order (more freedoms)
- ▶ Despite being a nun, she defended her rights as a woman, which eventually drew concern from the church
- ▶ Church forced Juana to sell her library and give up her pursuits, and she was made to sign a document declaring she would cease her education
- ▶ After being denied her intellectual abilities...Sor Juana served as a nurse in an infirmary; she caught a disease and passed away



CONTENT

- ▶ Ways she is presented as an intellectual:
 - ▶ direct eye contact, with a calm and intelligent face
 - ▶ her hand turns the page, showing she is in the midst of learning and growing her intellect
 - ▶ her quill pens remind us of her writings
 - ▶ similar to images of St. Jerome (the patron of her religious order); seated at a desk surrounded by images of learning
- ▶ She is surrounded by books and is reading a book by St. Jerome



CONTENT

- ▶ Religious garments convey the deep connection she had with her faith:
 - ▶ typical nun attire of 18th c. Mexico
 - ▶ wearing rosary (prayer) beads which she actively playing with
 - ▶ large medallion under her chin called an escudo; showing the annunciation

