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**'LOOKS LIKE A CARTOON!'**

## **Outrage as Spanish amateur artist botches restoration of 500-year-old effigy of St George six years after the infamous 'Ecce Homo Monkey Christ'**

The new coat of paint has left locals fuming at the church of San Miguel of Estella, in the northern Spanish region of Navarra

By [Guy Birchall](#)

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**OUTRAGE** has been sparked after a Spanish priest asked a local school teacher to restore a priceless 16th-Century statue of St George.

The new coat of paint has left locals fuming at the church of San Miguel of Estella, in the northern Spanish region of Navarra.



Fury has been sparked in a Spanish town after an amateur artist botched a restoration of a statue of St George

The end result has been compared to the now infamous Ecce Homo painting of Borja that was touched up by cleaning lady Cecilia Gimenez and destroyed in the process.

The statue of San Jorge (Saint George) shows the armoured saint riding a horse as he fights the dragon but it was too dull for the local priest, who according to reports decided to ask a schoolteacher if she could take the time to restore it.

The woman, named in local media simply as Carmen who reportedly teaches arts and crafts at a local school, was happy to help out and the result was unveiled to the horror of locals this week.

Social media users flooded the internet with comparisons to the botched statue.



The local priest decided the effigy was too dull and enlisted the help of a local amateur artist to restore it



Unfortunately the arts and crafts teacher missed the mark and ruined the 500-year-old statue. Many compared the statue to children's cartoon characters.

Fernando Segovia tweeted: "Do not be fooled, San Jorge de Estella is Stingy de Lazy Town."

Another likened the statue to Marty Feldman's Igor in Young Frankenstein.

A further joker compared the statue to Herge's famed comic book journalist Tintin. Finally one also likened the restoration to a character from Disney's the Sword in the Stone.



The restoration has been compared to the now infamous 'Monkey Christ' restoration of six years ago in a Church in Borja, Spain

Koldo Leoz, the Mayor of Estella, admitted that the "restoration has left a lot to be desired as it is an artwork from the 16th Century and, if nothing else, care should have been taken of the materials used for the restoration."

He said that the priest, named Jose Miguel, should have asked for permission first from the city council and a specialist would then have been assigned to oversee the restoration.

That did not happen and now the original statue, which had some faded colours, has been completely covered by the new paint.



**Le Kim | #TeamAsia** @PeroQueDiceUste · Jun 25  
Quiero decir, yo al San Jorge de Estella el parecido se lo veo

Translated from Spanish by Microsoft

I mean, I see San Jorge de Estella the resemblance



7 15



**B Krypt** @librosnegros · Jun 23  
El "ecce homo" de Navarra. ¿Homenaje a #Tintín?

[#SanJorge](#) [#estella](#)

Translated from Spanish by Microsoft

The "Ecce Homo" of Navarre. Homage to #Tintín?



2 24 63



**Osa Licenciosa** @OsaLicenciosa · Jun 24

El "restaurador" del San Jorge es fan de Marty Feldman.



13 115 362



**Fernando Segovia** @fersegoji · Jun 25

Que no os engañen, el San Jorge de Estella es Stingy de Lazy Town

Translated from Spanish by Microsoft

Don't be deceived, the San Jorge de Estella is stingy from Lazy Town



2 328 826

He said: "If they had involved us, our heritage department would have liaised with the regional government and got advice over the best way of handling the restoration."

The mayor also complained that there was in general a "lack of control over the Church's heritage, which should be in the hands of public administra



Koldo Leoz, the Mayor of Estella, admitted that the 'restoration has left a lot to be desired.' He added that churches received money from the public and that there was a need for greater control to ensure "something like this never happens again."

Carmen Usua, who works for art restoration company ArtUs, shared details of the vandalism of the statue on social networks and claimed that "it looks like a 'ninot' (a cardboard sculpture typical of the Fallas festival in Valencia).