Afrocubanismo

Afrocubanismo constitutes an ideological shift in the valuation of Afrocuban forms of cultural expression and their acceptance on a national scale. From about 1927 through the late 1930s, Afrocubanismo influenced all domains of elite and popular art. At a time of fundamental changes in artistic expression, Afrocubanismo was partly nourished by international aesthetic trends in Madrid, Paris, and New York. A new interest in the noncommercial expression of Afrocubans inspired numerous works from the ethnographic writing of Lydia Cabrera to the paintings of Eduardo Abela, Jaime Valls, and Wifredo Lam. The literary works of Alejo Carpentier and Nicolás Guillén belong to this Afrocuban moment, as do the musical theater of Ernesto Lecuona and the symphonic compositions of Amadeo Roldán. Afrocubanismo involved, among other things, exchanges between national and transnational figures and forms of expression that included the influence of Cuban music on American jazz, Latin jazz, and rhythm and blues. This exchange culminated in the long relationship between Afro-Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén and North American poet Langston Hughes.

Bibliography

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