Photographie

Petit-Paris district, Basse Terre.

LO CALZO, NICOLA (1979-....) Basse-Terre

Description

Preparation of the “Mas-a-kongo déportaisyon”, Voukoum group The phenomenon of the reinterpretation of the past and the African origin is clearly present in the case of the «Mas-a -Kongo». This mask consists of coating the body and the face with a mixture of sugarcane syrup and soot collected in the chimneys of the sugar factories. Once again here, the elements have lost a part of their original meaning (referring to the cult of the bear or the savage man in the Indo-European carnival), to assume a new symbolism derived from the local context. Indeed, the Congo Mask is presented as symbolizing the African origin of the Caribbean people, because of its exacerbated black color. On the other hand, this image reflects of very occidental and colonial vision of the African savage. Nevertheless, this “Congo mask”, with its ambiguous origins, is considered the strongest symbol of the Antillean people’s Negro origins.

Informations

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