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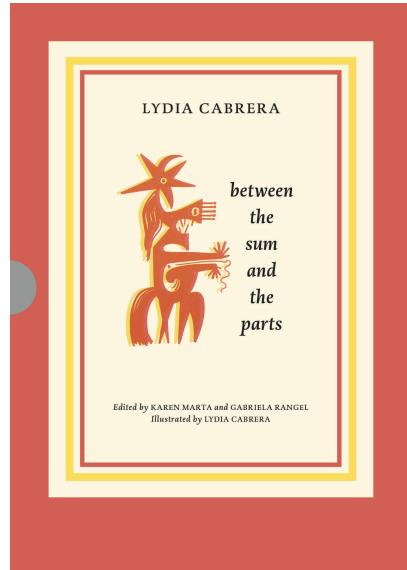
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Lydia Cabrera. Between the Sum and the Parts

Lydia Cabrera was born in Havana in 1899 and moved to Paris in 1927 where she studied art at the École du Louvre and painting with the Russian avant-garde artist Alexandra Exter. First written as a way to entertain her ill lover Teresa de la Parra, her stories based on Afro-Cuban folktales and myths have delighted generations of artists, writers, and scholars. When Cabrera returned to Cuba, she devoted her life to the preservation of

Americas Society, 2018

Includes a facsimile of the illuminated manuscript "Arere Marekén" (1933), a collaboration between Lydia Cabrera and Alexandra Exter

Because cultural homogenization is nothing less than cultural extinction, Lydia Cabrera's work models a strategy for survival in our own period, in which the spectre of extinction has become ever more present. Cabrera dedicated herself fully to her work in historically difficult circumstances and in involuntary exile, so it is disconcerting that her work remains ignored. Her legacy deserves revisiting.—Hans Ulrich Obrist

Hrsg./Ed.: Karen Marta, Gabriela Rangel. Illustrated by Lydia Cabrera. Text: Hans Ulrich Obrist, Gabriela Rangel, Asad Raza, Martin A. Tsang, Christopher Winks

Wie eine Trickbetrügerin verwischt Lydia Cabrera die Grenzen zwischen Historie und Erzählung, zwischen Realität und Fiktion. Cabreras Geschichten entstanden anfänglich im Milieu der Pariser Avantgarde der Zwischenkriegszeit – in dem sie auch ihr Publikum fand. Ihre Texte gründen auf afrokubanischen Mythen und Volksmärchen und dienen bis heute Generationen von Künstlern, Autoren und Wissenschaftlern als Stoff und Inspiration. Als der Aufstieg des Faschismus Cabrera zu einer Rückkehr in ihre Heimat Kuba zwang, widmete sie sich von da an der Bewahrung afrokubanischer Kulturen – ein Lebenswerk, das in dem gelehrt und spirituellen Meisterwerk *El Monte* seinen Höhepunkt fand, in dem die kubanische Wildnis auf brillante Weise von den Stimmen und Ritualen der Toten zum Leben erweckt wird. *Lydia Cabrera: Between the Sum and the Parts* ist die erste ihrem Werk gewidmete Publikation in englischer Sprache.

Ever the trickster, Lydia Cabrera blurred the lines between historian and storyteller, reality and fiction. Finding their initial context—and audience—in the avant-garde milieu of interwar Paris, Cabrera's stories based on Afro-Cuban myths and folktales continue to inform and inspire generations of artists, writers, and scholars. When the rise of fascism forced Cabrera to return to her native Cuba, she devoted herself to the preservation of Afro-Cuban cultures, a lifework that culminated in her scholarly and spiritual masterpiece, *El Monte*, in which the Cuban wilderness is brilliantly animated by the voices and rituals of the dead. The first English volume dedicated to her work, *Lydia Cabrera: Between the Sum and the Parts* introduces her substantial legacy to a new audience.