

7 / Do we all agree?

Centenary Commemorative Stamp 1810 1910

American Bank Note Co. · Impreso · 1910 · Museo Nacional de Colombia



In 1599 Benkos Bioho, a black african slave penetrated into the swamps of La Matuna, close to Cartagena de Indias –best known today as Palenque de San Basilio –together with a group of Cimarron slaves and founded the first independent territory in the country.

Monumento a Benkos Bioho
• Palenque de San Basilio · Sofía González · 2009 · Fotografía digital · Museo Nacional de Colombia



Free Birth Law

Bajo relieve de la estatua de Bolívar por Pietro Tenerani · Xilografía · ca. 1846 · Museo Nacional de Colombia



[Soldier]

August Le Moine · ca. 1835 · Acuarela sobre papel verjurado de fabricación industrial · Museo Nacional de Colombia



REPRESENTATIONS OF

Independence try to create an idea of a shared past glory of our past governors, favoring histories that privilege the elites' interests and political agenda while other possibilities of remembering the past become obscured. Which other political projects have been told? What if we hadn't chosen Independence and democracy?

Brown, mulattos, bowlegged, free ones of every color

Pedro Romero, mulatto artisan in Getsemaní, Cartagena, was a key figure in this province's absolute Independence. Mulattos and browns sought recognition and equality. Other African-ancestry protagonists like José Luis Muñoz and Luis Gonzaga Galván in Mompox were crucial to expel the royal officers and mobilize the popular classes. Their importance is recorded in documents, but... where are their images?

Can one be independent without being free?

Despite the fact that some patriots freed the people that they kept enslaved, total manumission by law wouldn't arrive until 1851. In the meantime, slaves got their freedom by buying it, participating in the Spanish army, running away or taking care of haciendas. The war tensions led to contradictions like the defense that Bolívar

made of his liberation in 1819 while at the same time demanding that five thousand slaves participate in the army to obtain freedom.

Indigenous people projects

In the province of Santa Marta some Indigenous towns kept their fidelity to the crown, because of the conflicts between the communities and the *criollo* elites, driven by the possession of lands and the conservation of the traditional organization forms. This confrontation led to the representation of indigenous people as uncivilized actors that because of their alleged ignorance and attachment to their traditions took side on the royalist side.



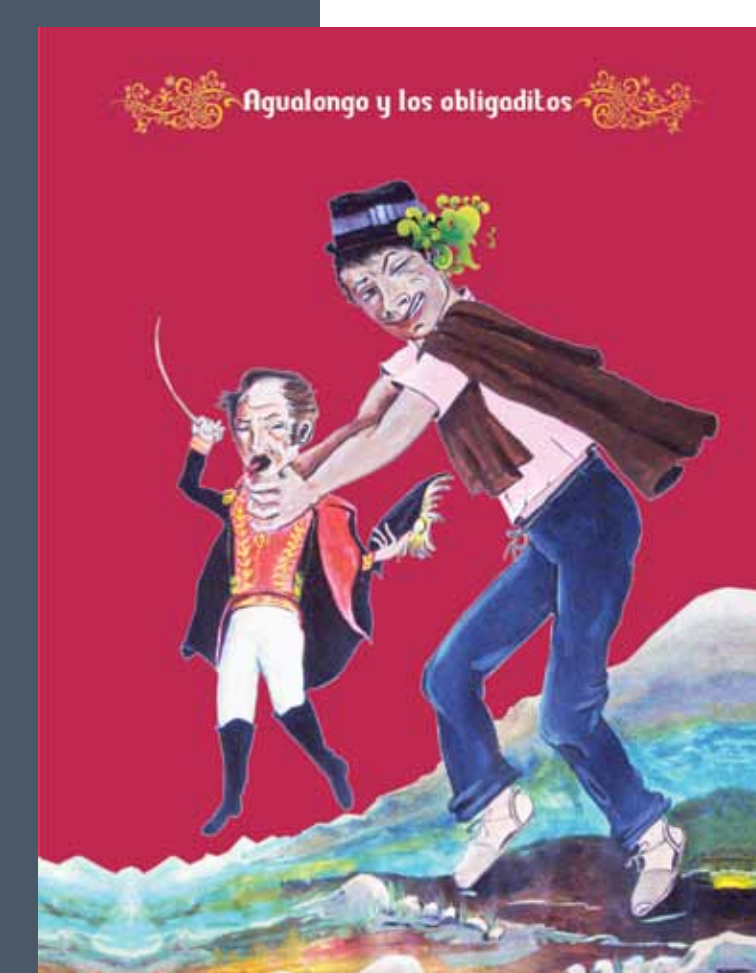
Our history, sir

Nelson Forj · 2008 · Registro en fotografía · Colección del artista - Cartagena



Crónicas de una generación trágica

Francisco Martínez interpreta a un hombre del pueblo · Viki Ospina · 1993 · Fotografía · Museo Nacional de Colombia



Characters like Agustín de Agualongo –Indigenous leader in the Pasto outskirts– opposed the excesses committed by the republican troops in search of

their own agenda.

Álbum Agualongo y los Obligaditos de Bambarabanda · José Francisco Argotty B./ Libia Velásquez · Pasto, 2008