The present text attempts to carry out the analysis from a multi-disciplinary perspective, of the most noted aspects of the cultural industries of the insular Caribbean: the production of illustrated books and the promotion of cultural products intended for mass consumption. In fact, our proposal examines the illustrated works of three Jamaican artists: Anna Ruth Henriques, Gloria Escoffery and Laura Facey. Some of the most recent examples of this production will be studied to determine the role of memory in the construction of the discourse on identity in a Caribbean context.

Although the selected artists belong to different generations, and use different media of production in their artistic production, the three share an interest in transcending the space of the gallery and the museum, and also a concern about experimenting with different expressive languages. In the case of their production as illustrators, the three artists use memory and the ancestors from the perspective of a personal and mythic time, which is, nevertheless, not isolated from the present reality of Jamaica.

Moreover, attention will be given to the inter-textual relations which are observed in the selected examples, having as a point of departure, the theoretical proposals of visual literacy, a position which will allow the confrontation of literary discourse with its visuals possibilities, and at the same time, critically examine, the narrative character of the visual.

In this frame of reference, it will be necessary to articulate a vision capable of including in the same context, the content of such discourse and the conditions in which they are received, consumed and changed, both in the Jamaican public sphere, as well as in the other territories of the diaspora.

Key Words: Contemporary art, Jamaica, visual literacy, Caribbean literature in English, memory.

BIO

Carlos Garrido Castellano is Assistant Professor at the Department of Art History of the University of Granada (Spain). He has been awarded an FPU Scholarship by the Ministry of Sciences and Innovation, Government of Spain. Furthermore he has completed a degree on Art History (2003-2007) and on History (2004-2007), in the Faculty of Letters.
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His research focuses on contemporary art and postcolonial studies, especially concerning India and the Caribbean, and also of their Diasporas in the USA. He also works on the didactics of archaeological heritage issues. In the last three years he has directed the Archaeological Museum of Martos (Jaén, Spain). He is a member of the Spanish Association of Interdisciplinary Indian Studies (AEEII), University of Córdoba (Spain).

His doctorate project, currently in progress, focuses on the study of artistic discourses in the Caribbean and Indian contexts at the end of the Millennium (1990-2010), and also on critical discourses and art politics on the Caribbean area and on an international sphere.

His present field of work focuses on intercultural and postcolonial memories and identities in Contemporary Caribbean Art. He has visited various academic centers of countries such as India (University of Hyderabad), Serbia (University of Belgrade), Jamaica (University of the West Indies/National Gallery of Jamaica/Edna Manley School of Visual and Performing Arts) or Dominican Republic (Centro de Arte Eduardo León Jiménes) for research purposes. He has also collaborated in Spanish and international academic journals and participated in academic conferences and events in countries like Wales, Portugal, Belgium or India.

He has recently coordinated the International Symposium “Viajes y Culturas Diaspóricas. Viajes y migraciones en el Imaginario cultural contemporáneo” (October-November, 2009). He has recently published a book on recent didactic and heritage conservation activities in the Archaeological Museum of Martos (Jaén, Spain).