

17-2-0179

Lewis, Leslie W. *Telling Narratives: Secrets in African-American Literature*. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2007. 232 pp. ISBN 978-0-252-03211-0, \$40.00.

*Telling Narratives* is an ambitious project. Lewis reads both African-American literary texts and the criticism that has been written about them through the lens of Hegelian dialectic. In so doing she demonstrates the ways in which African-American literature can be read as "Telling" the secrets of Black/White power relations in the United States. This larger binary umbrella provides a frame for reading the "secrets"—sexual, political, and cultural—that "makes possible American origin stories."

Lewis has produced a powerful piece of research that college and university level professionals will find quite useful. She offers readings of canonical African-American literary texts—and criticisms of those texts—that complicate traditional notions of power and empowerment.

Leslie Antonette  
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## Visual and Performing Arts

17-2-0180

Castro, Alicia, with Ingrid Kummels and Manfred Schafer. *Queens of Havana: The Amazing Adventures of Anacaona, Cuba's Legendary All-Girl Dance Band*. New York: Grove Press, 2007. 400 pp. Trans. from German by Stephen T. Murray. ISBN 978-0-8021-1856-1, \$24.00.

Alicia Castro (no relation to Fidel), aged 87, casually relates to her niece and editor, Ingrid Kummels, how her eldest sister Cuchito decided to put together a septet dance band specializing in "son" music in Havana, Cuba, during the 1930s. By recruiting her sisters who ranged in age from 12 to 18, she was able to realize her goal and form the band known as Anacaona in 1932. They played together until 1989.

The book offers lots of photos and even has a small glossary with longer definitions of different types of music and places that are referenced in the main text. Alicia's anecdotes and reminiscences are thought-provoking as they sketch personal affairs and family politics as well as the entertainment scene in Cuba before and after Castro. What is truly amazing in this story is that all the girls learned to play instruments that were traditionally played by men—trumpet, guitar, trombone, and saxophone—without worrying about gender. While at times the book moves too fast, simply taking the reader from one gig to another, it is nonetheless a worthwhile read because it inspires more inquiry, not only into different forms of Latino music, but also into music and women.

Lisa Nolan  
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17-2-0181

*Evolution: Five Decades of Printmaking by David C. Driskell*. Petaluma, Calif.: Pomegranate, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. by David C. Driskell. Essays by Adrienne L. Childs, Ruth Fine, Deborah Willis, and Julie L. McGee. ISBN 978-0-7649-4204-4, \$30.00.

African and American art, events, family, nature, and people are just a few of the subjects that David C. Driskell has explored in his printmaking over the past five decades. Originally created as a catalogue to accompany an exhibition of prints by Driskell in 2007 (the first exhibition organized solely by the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland), *Evolution* is an important study and record of an accomplished American artist.

Contributions by scholars Adrienne L. Childs, Ruth Fine, Julie L. McGee, Robert E. Steele, and Deborah Willis contribute information, analysis, and biography, and offer insights into Driskell and his prints. The art works are arranged chronologically from 1952 to 2007, which allows the reader to glimpse the evolution of Driskell's work over the years. What one sees are themes, ideas, and glorious colors changing and developing, as Driskell finds new ideas and inspirations. A checklist of the prints and a chronology of Driskell's life are also included. This is a stunningly beautiful book, recommended for all public and academic libraries, but especially for those with American and African-American art collections.

Melissa Aho  
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17-2-0182

Huie, Wing Young. *Looking for Asian America: An Ethnocentric Tour*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2007. 144 pp. Illus. with photos by the author. Foreword by Frank H. Wu. Essay by Anita Gonzalez. Travelogue by Tara Simpson Huie. ISBN 978-0-8166-4672-2, \$39.95.

An idea that started out as a nine-month road trip and later turned into a photographic exhibit at the Minnesota Museum of American Art has now after many years turned into this wonderful book of Wing Young Huie's quest to find Asian Americans (and perhaps himself) in our changing society.

Looking at the photographs (and yes one does tend to look for any Asian Americans in the photos, just as the title states) and reading the essays, the reader is given a glimpse of the fascinating, odd, and sometimes very beautiful landscape, culture, and people of North America. The photos and stories in the book are culled from 7,000 photographs that Huie took while traveling around the country (visiting nearly 40 states and Canada) with his wife in 2001. Also included in the book is a foreword by Frank H. Wu, an essay by Anita Gonzalez as well as 15 essays by Huie himself describing the photographs and people being photographed, and a travelogue by Huie's wife, Tara Simpson Huie. Her travelogue offers an enchanting insight into the trip and the lives of this talented couple. Recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those with photography, American studies, and Asian-American collections.

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17-2-0183

Lazerine, Cameron, and Lazerine, Devin. *Rap-Up: The Ultimate Guide to Hip-Hop and R&B*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2008. 320 pp. ISBN 978-0-446-17820-4, \$16.00 (pb).

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