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Mulata Nation: Visualizing Race and Gender in Cuba

Alison Fraunhar

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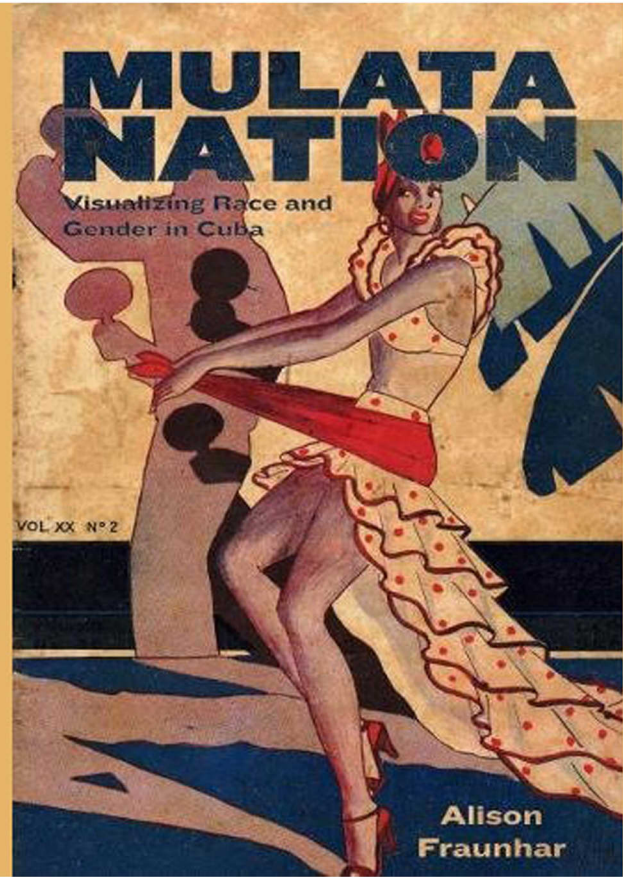
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The Green School at Books & Books

Cuban Research Institute



Mulata Nation: Visualizing Race and Gender in Cuba Book Presentation with Author Alison Fraunhar

Friday, October 12, 2018 | 8:00 PM | Books & Books | 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables

Repeatedly and powerfully throughout Cuban history, the mulata, a woman of mixed racial identity, features prominently in Cuban visual and performative culture. Tracing the figure, Dr. Alison Fraunhar looks at the representation and performance in both elite and popular culture. She also tracks how characteristics associated with these women have accrued across the Atlantic world. Widely understood to embody the bridge between European subject and African other, the mulata contains the sensuality attributed to Africans in a body more closely resembling the European ideal of beauty. Dr. Fraunhar explores these complex paradigms, how, why, and for whom the image was useful, and how it was both subverted and asserted from the colonial period to the present. From the early seventeenth century through Cuban independence in 1899 up to the late revolutionary era, Fraunhar illustrates the ambiguous figure's role in nationhood, citizenship, and commercialism. She analyzes images including key examples of nineteenth-century graphic arts, avant-garde painting, and magazine covers of the Republican era, cabaret and film performance, and contemporary iterations of gender.

Dr. **Alison Fraunhar** is Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She teaches courses in Modern and Contemporary, Latin American, and Women's Art and Film Studies. She has published numerous articles on Cuban visual culture and film. She is a former Visiting Scholar at FIU's Cuban Research Institute.

This event is free and open to the public.

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu