

Assignment 3:
Spirituality and Religion

Many people of the Antilles express their spirituality through the syncretism of the Yoruba and Catholic faiths, called variously Santería, Palo Monte, Espiritismo, Pocomanía, or Voodoo.

Become more acquainted with this spirituality.

1. Check out pages 23 to 28 of assignment 3, "Boricuas" - "Yoruba" by Migene Gonzalez-Wippler (at Boricuas, pgs 256-67)

2. Look at three sets of videos that speak to the idea of Santería in Puerto Rico and one musical derivation of it, Bomba:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXHxcGgClc4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J09tYXHH0uk&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wJrQWB1-jQ&feature=related>

3. Look at this site devoted to the making of wooden saints, Santos - which is not specifically related to Santería, but, to my mind, still has to work with it, since it's likely that practitioners of Santería might very well have made use of these Santos to represent their Orishas:

<http://www.santosdepr.org/>

4. Look at this website:

<http://www.crossingthewater.com/index.htm>

which summarizes the actions of Santiago Castañeda Vero a priest in his faith.

5. Look at this set of images on Flickr:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/professor_p/sets/72157625917776490/

illustrates some of the objects and costumes associated with the faith.

6. Do something that expresses your personal sense of spirituality, that is, your personal way of interpreting or expanding on organized religion as you know it. Create some piece of art - sculpture, collage, drawing, slide show, video - that expresses your feelings about the topic. Luis has suggested that your work might be in the form of an artistic 'petition' to a Greater Power to grant a wish.