

Spring 2023

SPANISH 481:

THE MOVEMENT OF CARIBBEAN LITERATURE



Belkis Ayón, *Resurrection*

This course will consider the kinesthetic dimensions of literary texts that engage with and draw on the sonic archive of Latin American popular music. Focusing on contemporary literature from the Spanish Caribbean, we will study works that mediate the boundary between the popular—that which possesses mass appeal—and so-called “high art”. Our central task will be to consider what happens when certain genres of “Latin” sound from the Caribbean (merengue, bachata, salsa, plena, guaracha, reggaetón, to name a few) move into and alongside the space of the literary:

- ~*How do the more formal registers of literary discourse bend, spin, and turn under the polyphonic pressure popular sound?*
- ~*How does the literary text re-present racialized, gendered, and classed bodies in their movement across and against local geographies and temporalities?*
- ~*In what ways does the soundscape of these texts demand that we read them with senses other than the visual?*

We will attend to these questions, reading theories on cultural studies, popular culture, and sound and dance studies, alongside literary works from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

TuTh, 12:30 - 1:50 pm

Instructor: Prof. Natalie L. Belisle

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