# EL CIMARRON Y SU FANDANGO by Mara Sánchez Renero

Texts: Aleida Violeta Cisneros & Mara Sánchez Renero

During the colonial period in the Americas, a "Cimarrón" was a Black fugitive slave who lived a free life in isolated corners of society.

After independence, when slavery was abolished in Mexico, the Afro-descendant population began to group mainly in two parts of the Mexican territory: Veracruz and the Costa Chica. It was in this last one where I had my first encounter with Afro-descendant culture and where I was aware of its importance and invisibility in the history of Mexico; despite being recognized as the third root, it was not until 2015 that the process for its recognition within the constitution began.

Driven by after the first encounter I had with the

community, I started the research that gave rise to this project, in which photography was the tool that allowed me to translate into images some historical elements that refer to the current construction of the identity of those who are called Afromexicans.

El Cimarrón y su Fandango speaks to us in an allegorical way of the past of a Black community and its journey through colonial history, its integration into the territory and its current sense of identity within it.

Mara Sánchez Renero



### **PUBLICATION KEYWORDS**

#Photography #Mexico #Afrodescendants #Afromexicans #History #Documentary #Territory #Identity

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mara Sánchez Renero is a Mexican photographer born and based in Mexico City. She studied photography in Barcelona (Spain), where she lived for 10 years. Interested in the instability of the human condition, she looks for places where she can create or reinvent a scenario. In her photography, we witness the dissolution of the constructed identity. By isolating men and women from their daily contexts to show them instead in a space of their imaginary construction, their mythical existence and thus to confront the uncertainty of human nature. Her work has been exhibited in various locations across the world. Her work has received several accolades, notably in Arles in 2015 and from the IWPA in 2020. Mara's work has been published and reviewed by international critics, including CNN and The New York Times.

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# **EL CIMARRON Y SU FANDANGO**

by Mara Sánchez Renero

In taking the photos, she was interested in memorializing and recording the identity of a people who have long been ignored or simply unknown.

- CNN

El Cimarron y su Fandango: the unknown world of the Black Afromexicans.

— Amandala Newspaper

Photographic creation, both concrete and abstract in its spatio-temporal context.

- 9lives Magazine

Yet that past isn't merely a descriptive historical concept; it is, above all, a definition of the present.

— ICP



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