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Sombra di Kolo: The Shadow of Color

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Sombra di Koló

The Shadow of Color

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Curacao: former Dutch colony

Dry island, small plantations; focus on harbor, slave market of the Dutch West India Company. Also: artisanship, and production of salt and food for local consumption

Emancipation

- Slave revolt led by Tula 1795
- May 30 1969 Labor revolt
- Change in education / jobs / politics / arts / literature / social upward mobility of black Curaçaoans

Race Relations are Taboo

- Estimate: 80% of population is afro-descendent
- Race is not part of census -> no statistical data available on race based inequality
- 8 international treaties on ending race based discrimination but no active (governmental) policy or hot line.
- Lower class = dark skinned
- Middle class = light(er) brown
- Upper class = white

Study on race relations

Break open the taboo: Talk. Listen.

Develop educational materials of high academic quality

Start a constructive national debate on a topic that matters to all of us

Generate new insights in

1. The diverse society we participate in daily
2. The shame and pain that people experience as a result of racial inequality

- Across 5 neighborhoods diverse in class and racial composition I interview:
- 6 people per bario
- 3 generations
- Male / female

- Take inventory -> what things do people experience when it comes to color?
- Open interview, one question:
- “Tell me something about color”
- Let people tell their story, pos / neg

Purpose of the study = Investigate & Generate Awareness

Future action:

- Quantitative / qualitative research
- National awareness campaign
  * Education
  * Media
  * Arts
  * Policy / government

We work with a professional camera and sound team