

In El Batey, My Father's Foot Lit a Fire

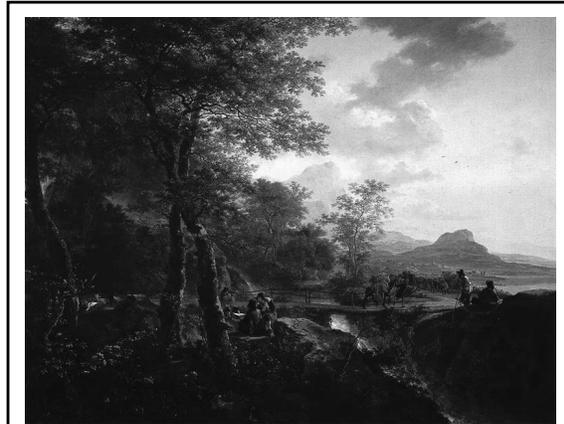
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ABSTRACT

First published in *The Caribbean Writer* Volume 31 *New Vistas: An Evolving Caribbean* (2017): 91-93. "In El Batey, My Father's Foot Lit a Fire" is inspired by Juan Bosch's short story "Luis Pie," narrated from the perspective of Luis Pie's son.



Jan Both: Landscape with a Draughtsman

Keywords: Caribbean Literature, Haiti, Migration Studies, Dominican literature, República Dominicana, Haitian-Dominican Relations

BIO

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In El Batey, My Father's Foot Lit a Fire
reading Jorge Manrique in Río Piedras

To Luis Pie—
The two of them

—In homage to the Dominican children
of Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic.

In the cañaveral near El Batey
a wound on my father's foot
made him crawl
on the dirt.
In the dark.
Pray to Bondyé.

Crushed by his pain,
he didn't see the fire,
until it came too close
and wild.

I saw my father
coming home,
hands tied in ropes,
dragged on the dirt
by horses
and the men of Greed.

His face full of bruises,
blood and wounds.
They had accused him
of lighting a fire
in the cañaveral...

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