

Leonard Lief Library  
Music, Multimedia, Theater and Dance  
present  
A Reading and Discussion

## El Monte

### Notes on the Religions, Magic, and Folklore of the Black and Creole People of Cuba

by Lydia Cabrera, translated by David Font-Navarrete

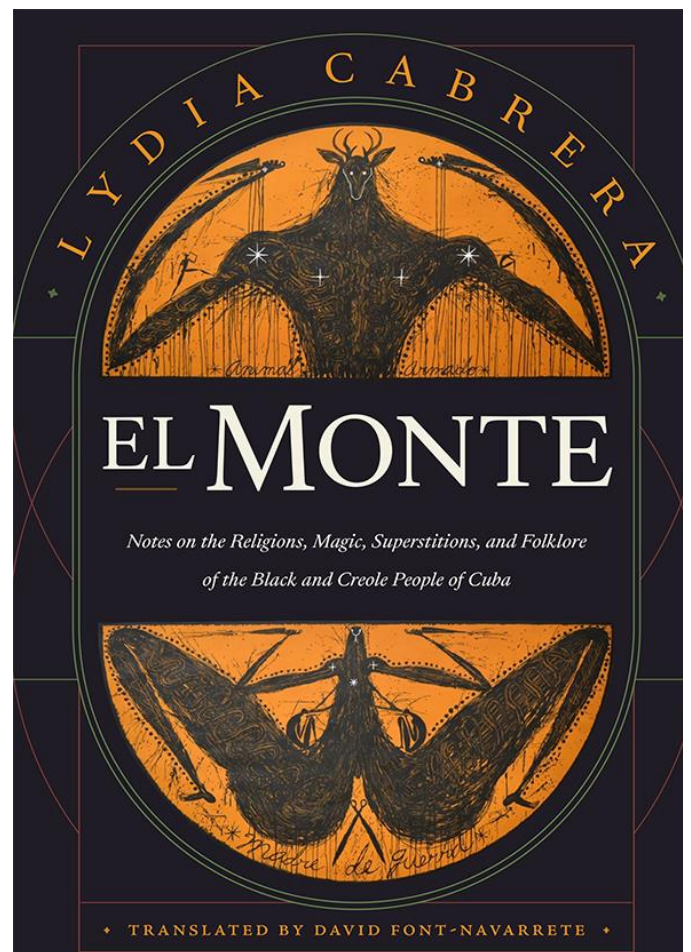
First published in Cuba in 1954 and appearing here in English for the first time, Lydia Cabrera's *El Monte* is a foundational and iconic study of Afro-Cuban religious and cultural traditions.

Drawing on conversations with elderly Afro-Cuban priests who were one or two generations away from the transatlantic slave trade, Cabrera combines ethnography, history, folklore, literature, and botany to provide a panoramic account of the multifaceted influence of Afro-Atlantic cultures in Cuba.

Cabrera details the natural and spiritual landscape of the Cuban *monte* (forest, wilderness) and discusses hundreds of herbs and the constellations of deities, sacred rites, and knowledge that envelop them.

The result is a complex spiritual and medicinal architecture of Afro-Cuban cultures. This new edition of what is often referred to as the *Santería bible* includes a new foreword, introduction, and translator notes. As a seminal work in the study of the African diaspora that has profoundly impacted numerous fields, Cabrera's magnum opus is essential for scholars, activists, and religious devotees of Afro-Cuban traditions alike.

David Font-Navarrete is Associate Professor of Music at Lehman College.



Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
2:00 - 3:00 PM

RSVP by February 26<sup>th</sup>:

Location: Library - Treehouse Conference Room 317

\*Registration is required\* <https://libcal.lehman.edu/event/11937215>

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