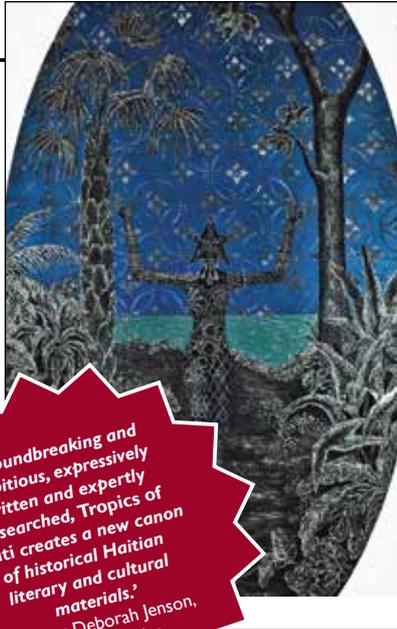


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Tropics of Haiti

Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World, 1789–1865

Marlene L. Daut



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The Haitian Revolution (1791–1804) was an event of monumental world-historical significance, and this book, the first comparative literary history of those events, examines Haiti's war of independence through the eyes of its actual and imagined participants, observers, survivors, and cultural descendants. The 'transatlantic print culture of the Haitian Revolution' shown by this literary history was created by novelists, poets, dramatists, memoirists, biographers, historians, journalists, and eye-witness observers, and reveals that enlightenment racial 'science' was the primary vehicle through which the Haitian Revolution was interpreted in the long nineteenth century.

Through the contention that the Revolution was incessantly racialized by four constantly recurring tropes—the 'monstrous hybrid,' the 'tropical temptress,' the 'tragic mulatto/a' and the 'colored historian,' *Tropics of Haiti* shows the ways in which the nineteenth-century tendency to understand Haiti's revolution in primarily racial terms has affected present day demonizations of Haiti and Haitians. This new archive of Haitian revolutionary writing invites us to examine how nineteenth-century attempts to paint Haitian independence as the result of a racial revolution coincide with present-day desires to render insignificant the second independent republic of the New World.

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