



**Cultural heritage and tourism**  
**Looking back at slavery on Curaçao and in Suriname**

Valika Smeulders

# Introduction

## Plantation to Nation

Caribbean Museums and National Identity

Edited by  
ALISSANDRA CUMMINS, KEVIN FARMER AND ROSLYN RUSSELL

Series Editor  
AMARESWAR GALLA



In november 1841, nu 175 jaar geleden, vond in Theater Diligentia in Den Haag de eerste vergadering plaats die oepriet tot de afschaffing van de slavernij.

Op het Nederlands-Caribische eiland Sint Maarten ondertussen realiseerden slaafgemaakten *zelf* de vrijheid.

## One Happy Kingdom

Deze voorstelling brengt *Living History*, muziek en dans uit verschillende delen van het koninkrijk samen in een nieuwe beleving van vrijheid, gelijkheid, solidariteit en burgerschap, toen en nu.

Met *Grand Lady of Jazz Anastacia Larmonie*  
*First Lady of St Martin Dance Clara Reyes*  
en vele anderen...

**Theater Diligentia**  
**Lange Voorhout 5, Den Haag**  
**13 november 2016 17:00 uur**  
**Inloop vanaf 16:00 + netwerken na**  
**Prijs: €12,50**  
**Kaartverkoop: Theater Diligentia**  
**[www.diligentia-pepijn.nl](http://www.diligentia-pepijn.nl)**





**This class**

**What is cultural heritage?**

**What is slavery heritage?**

**Breaking the silence**

**Commemorating 2003/4**

**Social context Curaçao and Suriname**

**Who visits presentations of slavery?**

**Commemorating 2013/14 – commemorating today**

**Conclusions**

# What is cultural heritage?



**Selective use of the past in the present**  
**Groups, ideologies and nationalism**  
**Heroes and losers vs perpetrators and victims**

**What is cultural heritage of the slavery past?**



# What is cultural heritage of the slavery past?



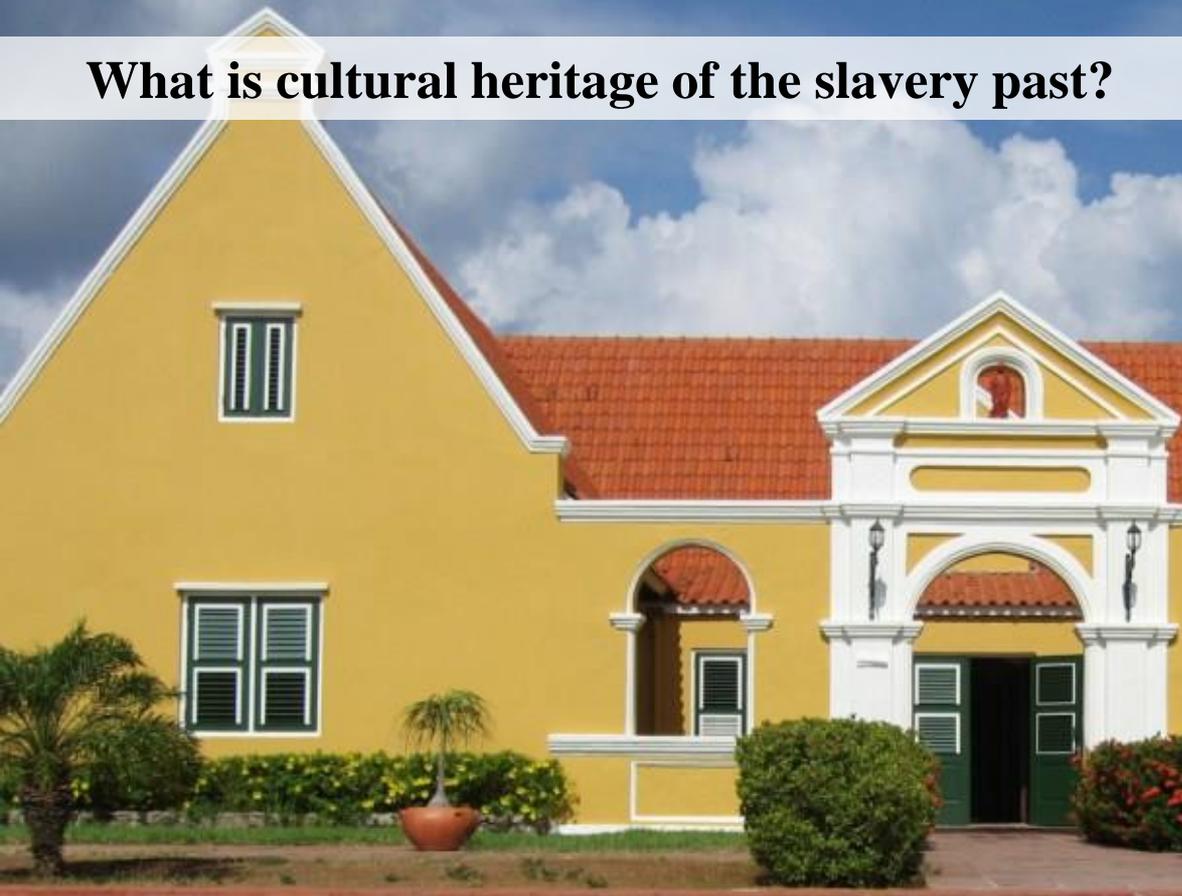


**What is cultural heritage of the slavery past?**





# What is cultural heritage of the slavery past?



**Black Atlantic: heritage institutions, in the environment, at home**  
**Tangible and intangible heritage**  
**Primary and secondary heritage**  
**Enslaved, enslavers, Marroons, indentured workers**

**Breaking the silence**

**the living legacy of 30 million untold stories**

**Museum policy**

**UNESCO**

**Globalisation and technology**

**Commemoration policy and national heritage**

**[WWW.UN.ORG/EVENTS/SLAVERYREMEMBRANCEDAY](http://WWW.UN.ORG/EVENTS/SLAVERYREMEMBRANCEDAY)**

## Breaking the silence



**Global - local interaction**

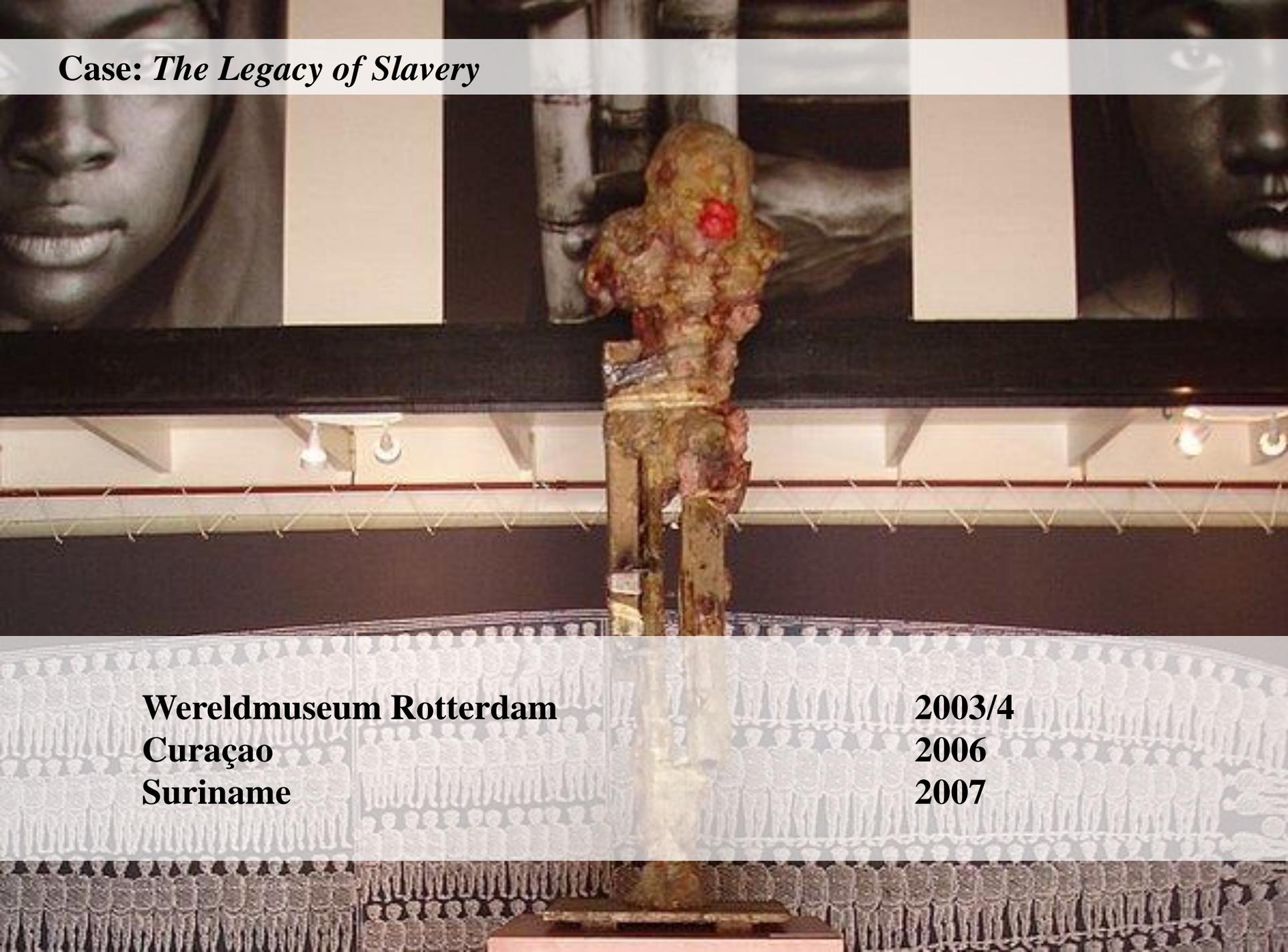
**Ethnic and socio-economic relations**

**Postcolonial status**

**Tourism and economy**

**Contested heritage or shared heritage**

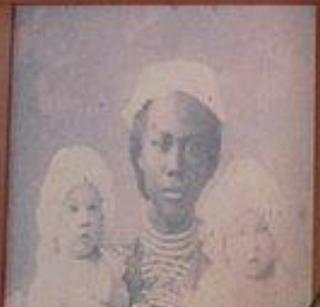
*Case: The Legacy of Slavery*



**Wereldmuseum Rotterdam**  
**Curaçao**  
**Suriname**

**2003/4**  
**2006**  
**2007**

# Case: *The Legacy of Slavery*



**Themes: slavery, resistance, emancipation, socio-economic legacy**  
**Re-interpretation of tangible heritage**  
**State of the art presentation techniques**  
**Modern art**

Year	Artist	Medium	Material	Location	Description
1800	Jan	M	Oil	Amsterdam	Portrait of a man in a white coat
1801	Jan	M	Oil	Amsterdam	Portrait of a man in a white coat
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## Social context Curaçao



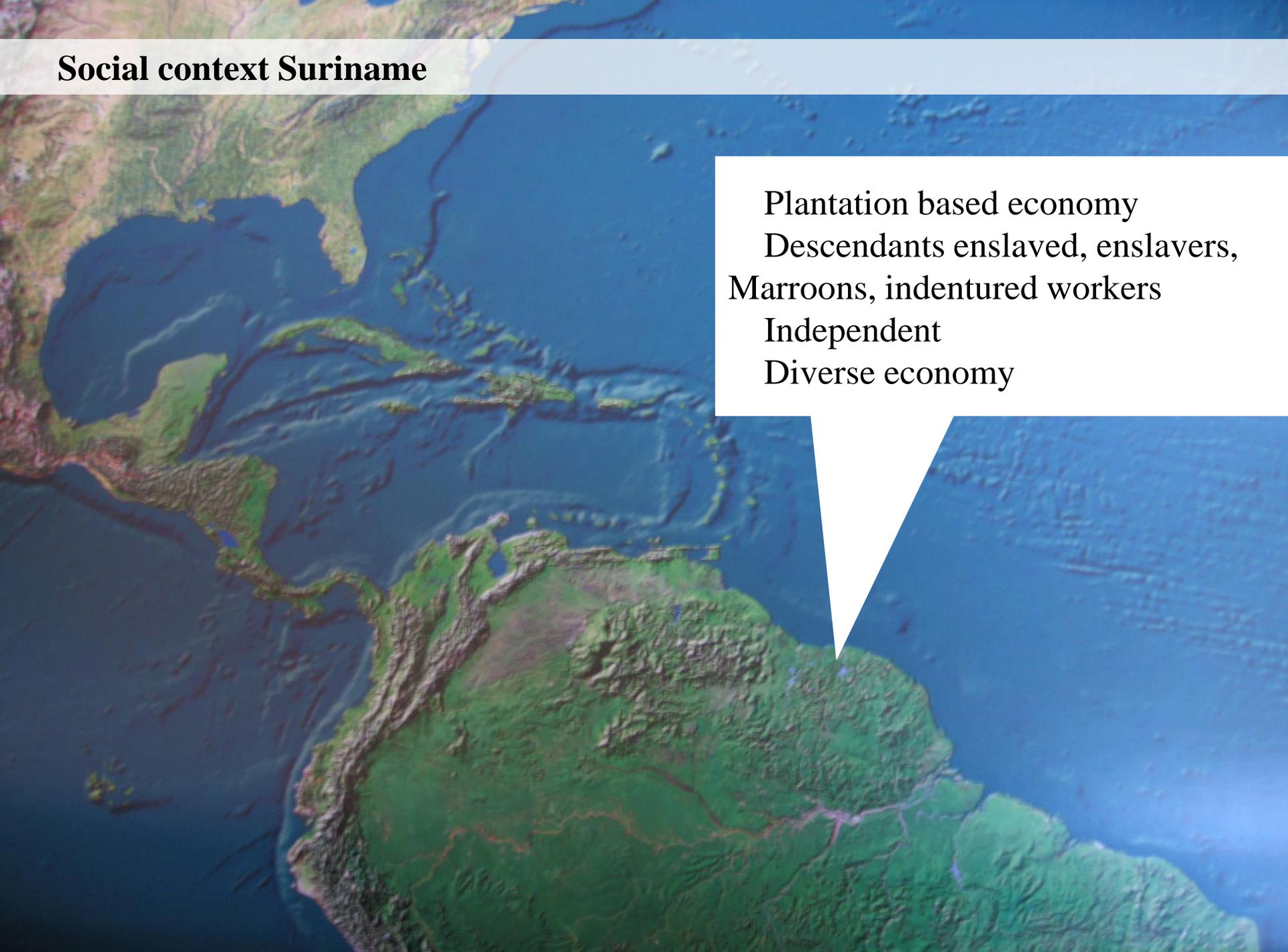
Slave market

Descendants enslaved and enslavers

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Tourism

## Social context Suriname



Plantation based economy  
Descendants enslaved, enslavers,  
Marroons, indentured workers  
Independent  
Diverse economy

## Social context Suriname



1863  
1875  
1963

National slavery commemoration  
First national heritage collection  
Slavery monument

## Curaçao



2001  
1947  
1998

## **Social context Curaçao**



**Tourism since 1950's**

**220.000 visitors**

**Sun, sea, shopping and folklore**

**Since 1998 addition slavery theme**

## **Social context Suriname**



**Tourism since 1990's**

**70.000 visitors**

**Visiting Friends & Relatives, eco tourism**

**Slavery implicit theme in cultural experience and along rivers**

# *The Legacy of Slavery on Curaçao*

**Proyekto**

# **Herensia di Sklabitut**

**Revelá pasado pa kobra forsa**

**Eksposishon Herensia di Sklabitut**  
**Lanthùis Groot Santa Martha - Soto Curaçao**  
**1 yùli - 26 novèmber 2006**

**Specific target group**  
**Customized organization**  
**Location relevant and familiar for non-museum visitors**



# The Legacy of Slavery in Suriname

## De erfenis van slavernij

Regular museum visitors  
Standard organization  
Standard location



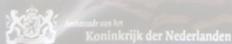
STICHTING  
SURINAAMS

21 februari t/m 31 augustus 2007

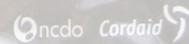
Wijk: Oud-Paramaribo, Suriname, Vismewijncstraat 18, Zorg en Hoop

maandag - vrijdag 08 - 14 uur zondag 10 - 14 uur

in productie van het Wereldmuseum van Rotterdam.



wereldmuseumrotterdam



## Who visits slavery presentations?



### Legacy Curaçao

12.000

65% Afro-Curaçaoan

Rage and grief

### Legacy Suriname

8.600

Schools and tourists

Appreciation and pain

### Kura Hulanda

18.000

96% tourists

Horror and shame

Commemoration 2013/14



Tropenmuseum



**BLACK & WHITE**



**AL 2 MILJOEN MENSEN  
GELOVEN IN ZWARTE PIET!**

**MET JULLIE SUPPORT! BLIJF LIKEN EN DELEN!**

**Today: Is slavery heritage more part of national heritage than it was in 2002?**





**Global - local interaction**  
**Ethnic and socio-economic relations**  
**Postcolonial status**  
**Tourism and economy**  
**Contested heritage or shared heritage**