



During the last years, the July 20th Great National Concert has engendered new debates about the participation of all communities in a national celebration that boasts about its pluriethnic and multicultural nature. The effort non-hegemonic communities like afro-descendents have pursued to include their own celebrations, tells about their struggle to influence the way people think and experience their sense of belonging to Colombia.

Gran Concierto Nacional en Leticia • Mauricio Moreno • 20 de julio de 2008 • Fotografía • Archivo El Tiempo - Bogotá
 Conmemoración del Día Nacional en Tumaco • Lina del Mar Moreno • 20 de julio de 2007 • Fotografía • Museo Nacional de Colombia

Allegoric setting of Bolívar and the Five Republics.

Jorge López • Pasto, diciembre de 1930 • Banco de la República



FOR TWO HUNDRED years, patriotic celebrations have been a way to summon citizens to strengthen the idea of belonging to a nation and evoking a shared history. But, commemorations like the July 20th, have implied the silencing of other memories that contradict the official versions.

In Pasto, for example, some sectors objected the 1972 celebration of the Bomboná Battle 150th anniversary, arguing that it meant, along with the defeat of their ancestors a violent patriot retaliation over the Pasto people.

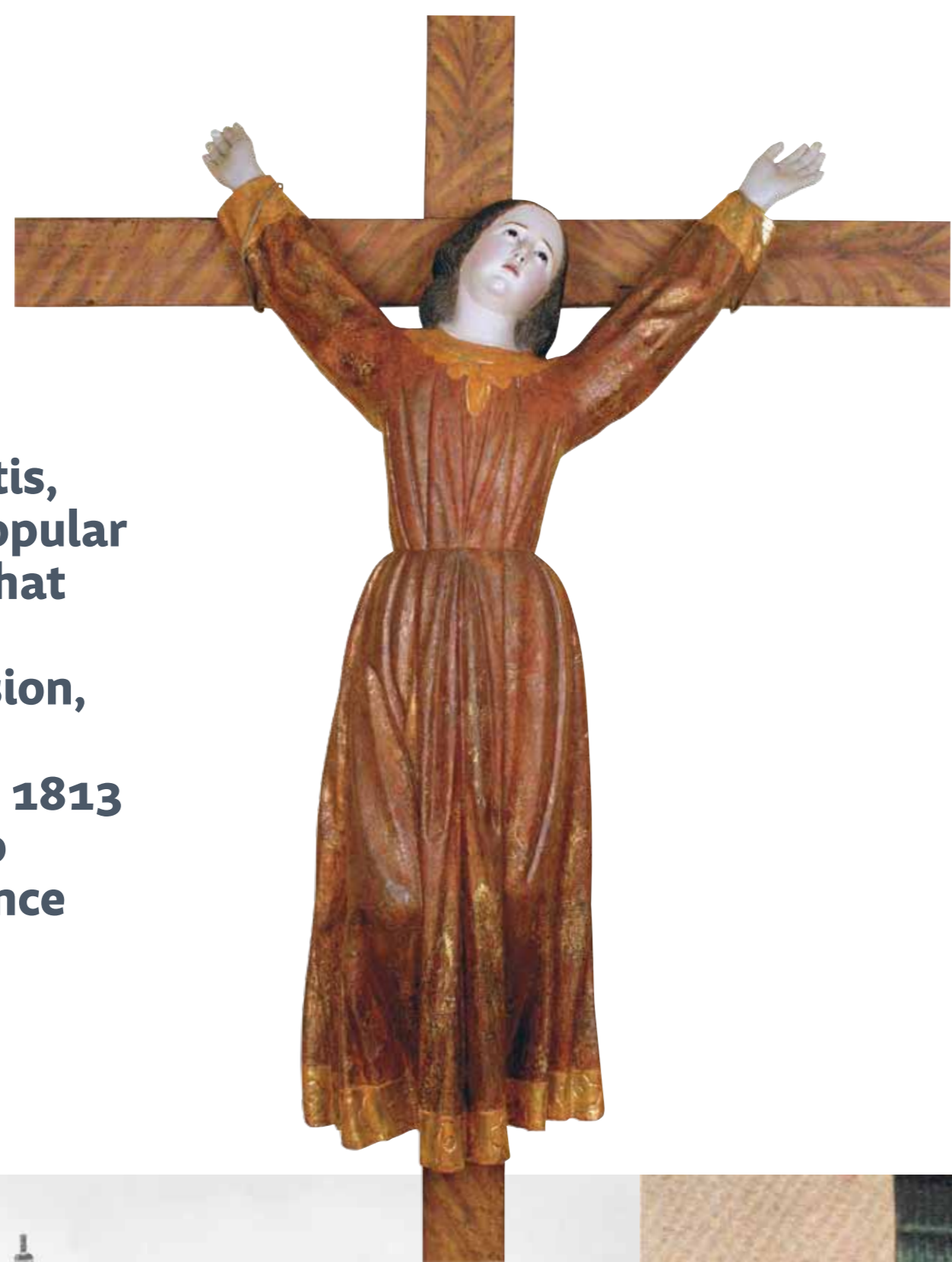
In general all principal acts were presided by the State representatives along with the Catholic Church and the Academy of History, expecting the people

to be audience and beneficiary. In general, popular origin celebration forms are excluded, as in the Cartagena Independence Centenary, when some dances and masked balls were prohibited.

Commemorations take place from the necessities of the moment in which they are generated. In the celebration of Bolívar's death centenary in 1930 there was a pro-north American tendency and the union of the five Bolivarian and Pan-American republics.

Santa Librada

Siglo XVIII • Talla en madera encarnada y policromada • Museo de la Independencia-Casa del Florero



July 20th feast's Saint Librada –or Wilgefortis, the female saint of popular religious in Europe– that become a symbol of freedom. This procession, made until 1959, was initiated by Nariño in 1813 when it was sought to show that Independence was not contrary to Catholicism.

Procesión a Santa Librada • 20 de julio de 1954, Bogotá • Fotografía • Archivo El Espectador – Bogotá

10 / **Nation holidays!**

Religious procession honouring the Centenary of Cartagena de Indias' Independence at San Pedro Claver Square, november 11th 1911.

Copia en gelatina • Fundación Fototeca Histórica de Cartagena de Indias



Bolívar's death centenary in the Pan-American/USA Union

Central Park, Nueva York, diciembre 17 de 1930 • Fotografía • Tomado del Libro de oro del centenario de Bolívar. Barranquilla: J. V. Mogollón editores, 1930

