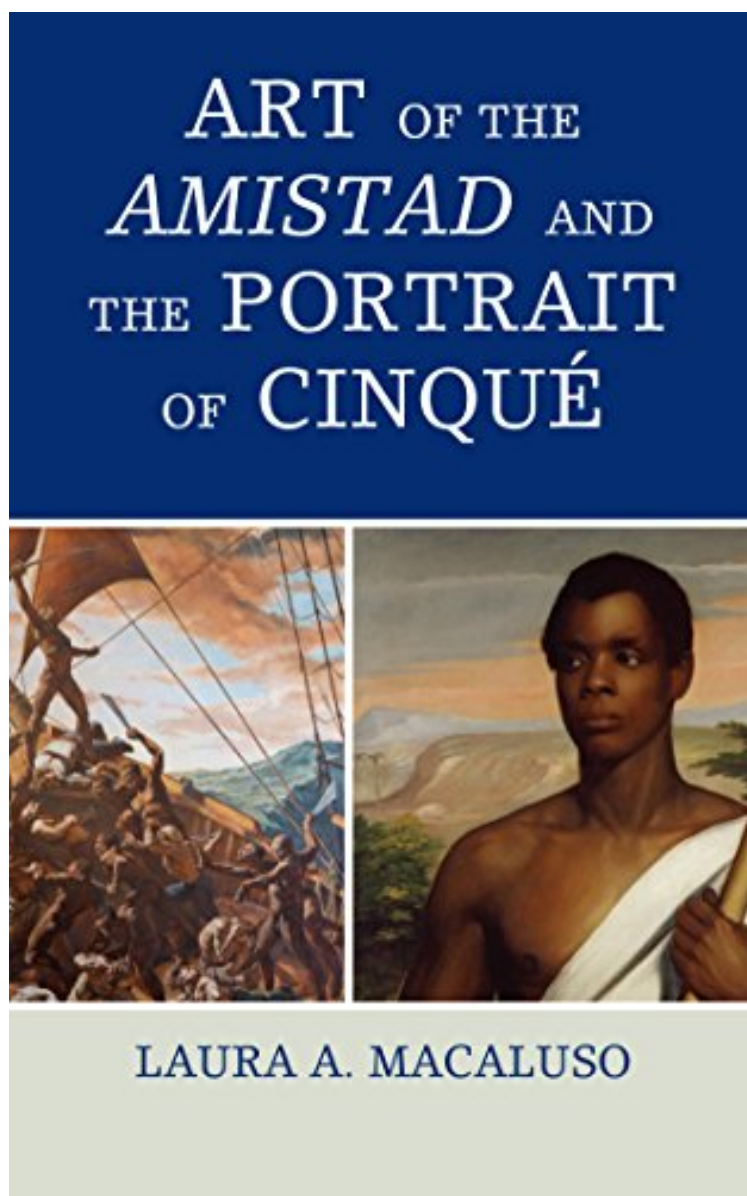


[Mobile ebook] Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinqueacute; (American Association for State and Local History)

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Laura A. Macaluso

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Laura A. Macaluso : Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinqueacute; (American Association for State and Local History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art of

the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinque; (American Association for State and Local History):

The Amistad incident, one of the few successful ship revolts in the history of enslavement, has been discussed by historians for decades, even becoming the subject of a Steven Spielberg film in 1997, which brought the story to wide audiences. But, while historians have examined the Amistad case for its role in the long history of the Atlantic, the United States and slavery, there is an oil on canvas painting of one man, Cinque, at the center of this story, an image so crucial to the continual retelling and memorialization of the Amistad story, it is difficult to think about the Amistad and not think of this image. Visual and material culture about the Amistad in the form of paintings, prints, monuments, memorials, museum exhibits, quilts and banners, began production in the late summer of 1839 and has not yet ceased. *Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinque* is the first book to survey in total these Amistad inspired images and related objects, and to find in them shared ideals and cultural creations, but also divergent applications of the story based on intended audience and local context. Tracing the revolutionary creation of what art historian Stephen Eisenman calls "a highly individualized, noble portrait of an African man," *Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinque* is built around visual and material culture, and thus does not use images merely as illustration, but tells its story through the wide range of images and materials presented. While the Portrait of Cinque seems to sit quietly behind Plexiglass at a local history museum, the impact of this 175-year old painting is palpable; very few portraits from the 19th century—let alone a portrait of a black man—remain a relevant part of culture as the Portrait of Cinque continues to be today. *Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinque* is about the art and artifacts that continue to inform and inspire our understanding of transatlantic history—a journey 175 years in the making.

Portrait of Cinque by Nathaniel Jocelyn, is the focus of author Laura A. Macaluso's newest book entitled, *Art of the Amistad and The Portrait of Cinque*. The portrait has enjoyed iconic status for nearly two centuries because of Jocelyn's singular vision of a man whose humanity was not deadened by the ravages of enslavement, or stolen by the struggles he endured on his dogged quest for freedom. He is someone we would all want to know because his image convinces us that there is courage, dignity, promise, and greatness even in the least of us. (Rex M. Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution) Placing the great portrait of Cinque in a rich, changing artistic context, Laura Macaluso has written a fascinating and sublimely illustrated study of the art of the Amistad story. Nothing fired, for better and worse, the American antislavery imagination quite like the epic events surrounding the Amistad captives in 1839-41. And nothing left a richer tale of those events than the great painting by Nathaniel Jocelyn of Cinque, which itself had an epic history before it found its way on to the walls of the New Haven Museum. Macaluso has done some stunning research, and tells a narrative history of how this great story survives in many visual forms. (David W. Blight, Class of 1954 Professor of American History, Yale University, and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University) About the Author Laura A. Macaluso was born in Norwalk, Connecticut and currently resides in Lynchburg, Virginia near the Blue Ridge Parkway. She has taught art history, worked and lived at historic sites and written about cultural heritage (specifically museum collections, monuments and murals) for twenty years. She was awarded a Fulbright in 2008-2009 to work at the National Museum in Swaziland in southern Africa, and returned in 2010 under a cultural heritage preservation grant from the State Department. Recent projects include the exhibit "An Artist at War: Deane Keller, New Haven's Monuments Man" and the accompanying article in the Winter 2014/2015 issue of Connecticut Explored magazine. She is completing her doctoral dissertation which explores the relationship between art and city identity in the Humanities/Cultural and Historic Preservation departments at Salve Regina University (Newport, RI).