

DAVID LEVINTHAL
MASCARAS PINTAS / BLACKFACE

DLL0001

Unpublished text by Antonio molina and six photographs by David Levinthal
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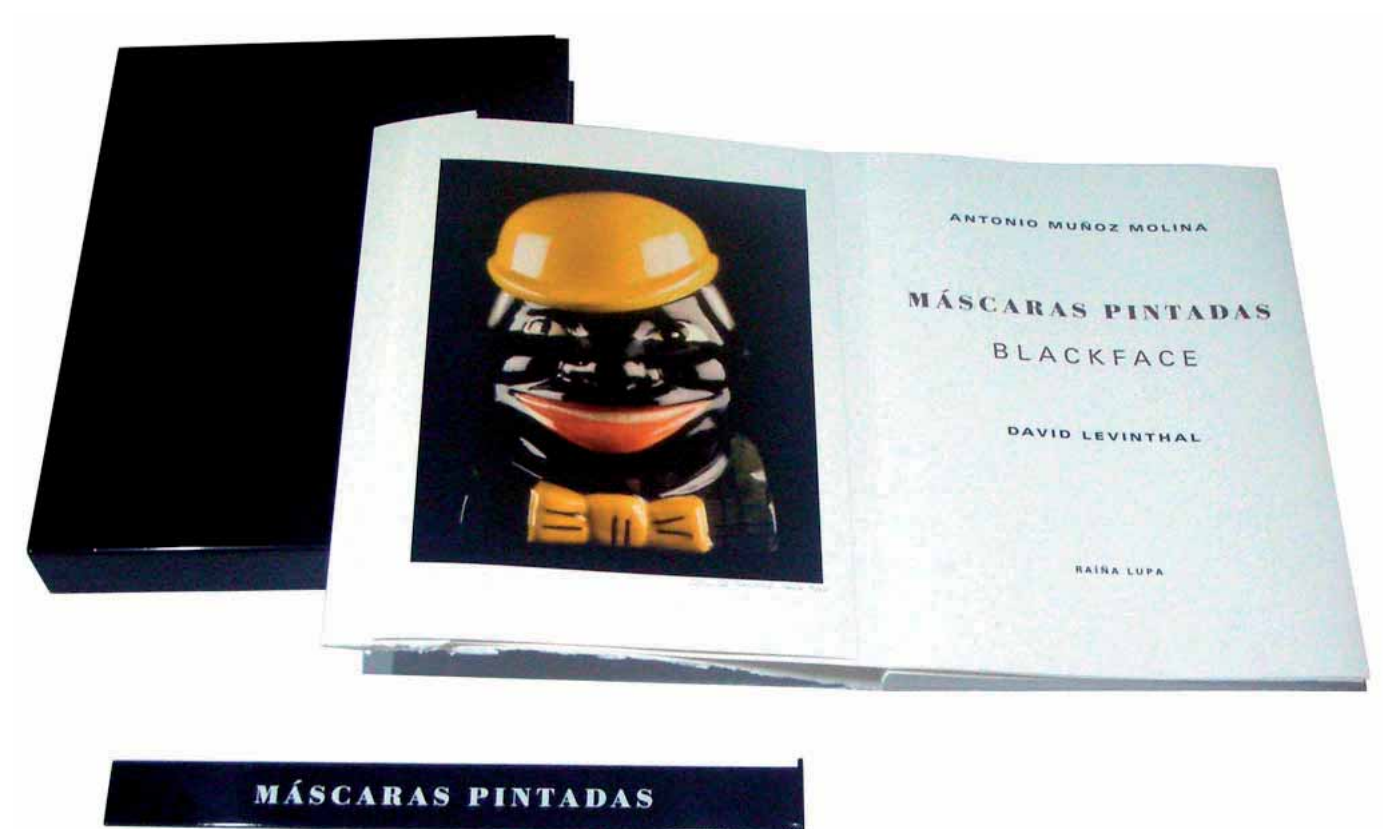
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... " The paradox of humiliated men who are admired by their oppressors continues into the twentieth century, when Duke Ellington put on a triumphant performance in the Cotton Club every night yet had to enter by the tradesmen's entrance, or when Billy Holiday or Louis Armstrong could only appear in films as servants or cooks. In *vaudeville*, white singers would paint their faces black

with a half-burned piece of wood or shoe polish in order to try and appropriate the musical expertise of those they were caricaturing. Blacks were paid homage and despised at the same time: polish for cleaning shoes is a cheap, crude way of mimicking dark skin and also acts as a reminder of the line of business for many blacks, which led to people giving them the hateful, generic name of 'Shines' "...

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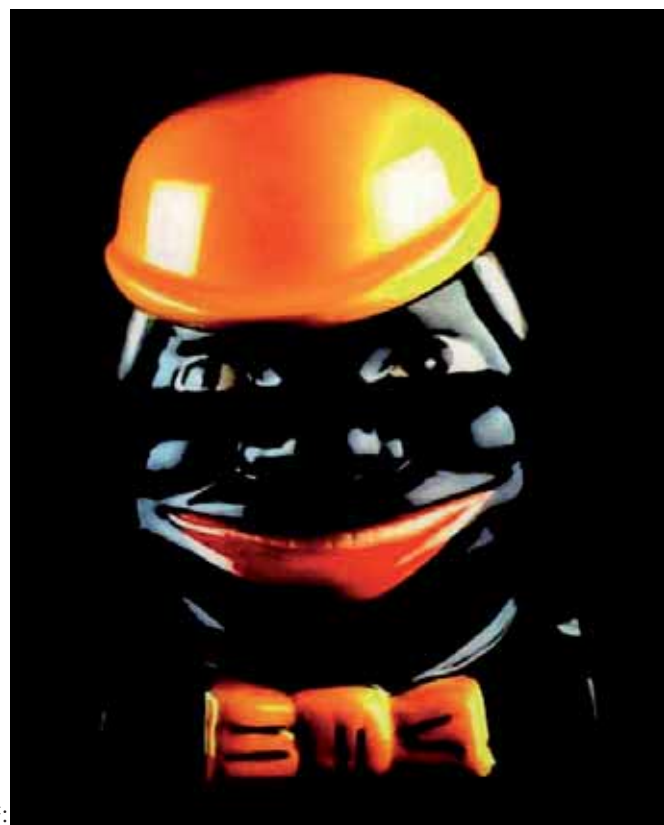
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