



Visions of Cuba

Photo Exhibit
Washington State University
Vancouver



Visions of Cuba

This exhibition was inspired after a delegation from Washington State University spent a week in Havana, Cuba, to organize a study abroad program with the Universidad de la Habana and the Instituto Superior de Arte. The artists featured in the exhibition include: José Alamillo, Hal Dengerink, Luz María Gordillo and Brian McNeill.

Special thanks to the sponsors: The College of Liberal Arts and the Diversity Task Force at Washington State University Vancouver.

Cover Design: Luz María Gordillo

Above: The Three Artists
Front Cover: Reflections in the Rain
Hal Dengerink

Visions of Cuba

Artists: José Alamillo, Hal Dengerink, Luz María Gordillo, Brian McNeill

Hal Dengerink
Watching Cuba Pass by



Hal Dengerink
Re-Building



Hal Dengerink

Visiting Cuba was a fascinating and disturbing experience. The decay of once opulent buildings was evident everywhere as was the dilapidated infrastructure. Still, the efforts to restore the city were equally evident and, frequently, restored buildings stood next to ones that were completely uninhabitable. The people were obviously and ubiquitously poor but there was a frequent sense of their rising above it and living normal lives despite the hardships. The images here show a couple enjoying a restful moment together, a family enjoying a Sunday afternoon outing, older gentlemen resting between sessions of entertaining tourists, people exiting the university and strolling through a plaza, and a woman watching quietly from an apartment window. Not so different from us.

Hal Dengerink
¡Viva la Familia!



Hal Dengerink
The Meringue Umbrella



Hal Dengerink
The Past is the Present





Hal Dengerink
The Three Artists

José Alamillo

The fondest memories of my trip to Havana, Cuba were walking along the *Malecón* (board walk) at night under the city's skylights, listening to the drumming circles and trying to evade the large waves crashing against the seawall. Every day was a new adventure, passing by historical landmarks, bumping into classic automobiles, seeing Buena Vista Social Club's Omara Portuondo, dancing to rumba music, and tasting delicious Cuban dishes. Most of all, I was mesmerized by the incredible warmth and friendliness of the Cuban people. Of course any trip to Cuba would be incomplete without watching a baseball game in Estadio Latino Americano! (Habana Industriales vs. Santiago de Cuba). ¡Que Viva Cuba!



José Alamillo
Sitting on the Past, Pondering the Future



José Alamillo
Cross in the Street



José Alamillo
¿Dónde está el agua?

Over: Havana Nights



José Alamillo
Viva el Beisbol



José Alamillo
Beisbol Fans





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Luz María Gordillo

Cuba is like a kaleidoscope, a collection of images that can or cannot be beautiful or hurtful and dislocating, depending on how fast the wheel turns. While walking through the streets of Havana, I responded to the smells, the sites, the textures, and the language; after all Cuba is a Latin American country with a colonial legacy. Within its colonial architecture, massive, decrepit, and imposing buildings serve as forts that hide things... things inside endless numbers of windows with curious eyes looking at you, you looking at them, and them looking at the ocean. A line of hanging multicolored intimate garments for the sun to dry framed this perfect and hypnotic imagery. It is the Cuban soul and its bright sunlight that maintain a spectacular color, tone, texture... Cuba is like nothing anybody imagines, even after you visited Cuba a couple of times, you realize you still know nothing about Cuba. You walk, you take pictures, you smell, you smile, you chat and inquire for directions. You think, and you watch the sun lay down creating a magnificent sunset that can only be described once.



Luz María Gordillo
El Callejón de Hamel

Previous: La Ropa Limpia

Luz María Gordillo
May Day in Cuba



Luz María Gordillo
He's Looking at You!



Luz María Gordillo
Cuba al Atardecer





Luz María Gordillo
Talk to Me

Brian McNeill

In my four trips to Cuba a number of things always stand out for me. These include the music that is everywhere, the beauty of the beaches and countryside, and the old buildings and cars. It is like stepping into a past time. However, what impresses me the most are *la gente* (the people) in every shade and racial mix from black to white. It is heartbreaking at times to see the difficult conditions that they must endure, but their warmth, resilience, perseverance, and collectivism always comes through from the barrios to the bureaucracy. ¡Viva la gente!

Brian McNeill
Don Quixote



Brian McNeill
Vista de la Universidad



Brian McNeill
¡Que Viva Changó!





Brian McNeill
Casa Amarilla

Washington State University Vancouver

Visions of Cuba

Artists:

José Alamillo, Hal Dengerink, Luz María Gordillo,
and Brian McNeill

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Back Cover: Alcánzame si puedes ... (Catch Me if You Can...)
Luz María Gordillo





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José Alamillo, Hal Dengerink, Luz María Gordillo and Brian McNeill