



Artwork at Casa Fuster by John McAuliff



TODAY'S CUBA: CONFOUNDING REALITIES

with Hampshire College Alumni, Family & Friends

Led by Professors Carollee Bengelsdorf & Margaret Cerullo

January 6–14, 2019

Participants will meet Cuban writers, visual artists, architects and filmmakers, as well as a social scientist or two, to get a sense of the vitality, complexities and contradictions of contemporary Cuban life. Topics of discussion will include issues related to gender, race, equality/inequality, the ongoing reforms in the Cuban system and their effects on people's daily lives, and relations between Cuba and the U.S.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A meeting with Fernando Pérez, perhaps Cuba's greatest living filmmaker. We will see his film "Suite Havana," a portrayal of 10 *Habaneros* in the course of their daily lives on a single day, and discuss the film with him.
- A guided walking tour with Jaime Rodríguez, one of the three architects who initiated, in the early 1980s, the project to restore Old Havana, undertaken by the Office of the Historian of the City.
- A discussion with the sociologist Mayra Espina on the effects of the reforms undertaken by the Cuban state in the last two decades and their impact on questions of equality and inequality, particularly in terms of race, gender, and generational divides.
- A meeting and film showing with Gloria Rolando, whose work has focused on the recovery and resurfacing of black history on the island.
- A visit to the home of José Fuster, a ceramist and painter who has, with the help of his neighbors in the barrio of Jaimanitas, spent the last 25 years on a community development project centered around artistic production. Lunch with Fuster and a tour of the barrio.
- A discussion with a group of the women who, when they were 15 to 19 years old, fought in the underground in Havana to overthrow the Batista regime during the 1950s.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JANUARY 6 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at the Havana International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your Cuban national guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. Early this evening, at 5 pm, we will have dinner and do a brief orientation at Al Frente, a restaurant not far from the hotel. After dinner, Juan Valdés Paz, a sociologist/political theorist/pretty much everything else, will talk with us about Cuba before, during, and after Fidel. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (D)*

JANUARY 7 - HAVANA

This morning have a discussion with Jaime Rodríguez, one of the three original architects involved in the City Historian's Office initiative to restore Old Havana. Jaime worked in the project until his retirement two years ago and designed some of its most unique structures. He will then lead you on a walking tour of this historical district. Lunch will be at the *paladar* Los Mercaderes. Later in the afternoon you will have the option of visiting the studio of visual artist Eduardo "Choco" Roca Salazar or of taking a walking tour of Central Havana with artist Eduardo Hernández. The evening is free. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 8 - HAVANA

We will go to the Alejo Carpentier Centre for a viewing of the film "Suite Havana," followed by a discussion with filmmaker Fernando Pérez. Afterward, return to your hotel and get ready for an afternoon at the beach. You will then be taken to Santa María del Mar for lunch and time in the sun, sand, and beautiful seas. In the evening we will have drinks and pizza at the home of writer and literary critic Maggie Mateo, who was awarded the Premio Nacional in Literature for 2016, and talk with Maggie and with the poet Georgina Herrera. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 9 - HAVANA

This morning you can choose to be a willing participant, or an encouraging spectator, at a dance class with dancer/choreographer Juan Miguel Mas, director of Danza Voluminosa at Teatro Miramar. After your class, visit Casa Fuster, the community development project that artist José Fuster and his neighbors have constructed in the Jaimanitas section of Havana, an old fishing village. Tour the neighborhood with David González, who has worked with the project for 15 years. Have lunch at the Casa with Fuster, and then return to your hotel. This afternoon at 3:30, meet for a conference with sociologist Mayra Espina, a sociologist whose work for decades has focused upon questions of equality and inequality in Cuba, followed by a screening of the film "Abuela" (at the hotel) and discussion with filmmaker Gloria Rolando. You will have the remainder of the evening on your own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 10 - VIÑALES/HAVANA

Have an early breakfast and depart for your excursion to Viñales, a picturesque town in the Pinar del Río province known for its magnificent and unusual *mogotes* (limestone formations). Visit one of the well-known limestone caves in the area with your guide and learn about the history of enslaved peoples in this area, then meet the owners of a large organic farm and *paladar*, Agro-Ecológico, which has commanding views and features a "farm-to-table" restaurant. Enjoy a visit with one of the leading wildlife artists of Cuba, Nils Navarro, particularly famous for his prints of native avian species of Cuba, and author of "Endemic Birds of Cuba: A Comprehensive Field Guide." On the way out of town, stop by Hotel Los Jazmines for a panoramic view of the *mogotes* and valleys below. Then travel back to Old Havana and have the remainder of the evening on your own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 11 - HAVANA

Today at 10:30 am, meet Marilyn Solaya at the Casa del Festival for a showing of her film, "Vestido de Novia." Lunch will be at Vista Mar in Miramar. Later this afternoon visit the famed national arts university, the Instituto Superior de Arte, or ISA. ISA is the subject of the documentary "Unfinished Spaces," which aired on PBS, and has been presented at various film festivals. Should you wish, this evening from 6-8 pm, enjoy a performance by Obini Batá (women drummers) in Asociación Yoruba on your own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 12 - HAVANA

This morning take a guided tour of the Museo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum) with photographer and graphic artist Eduardo Hernández, focusing on visual art and cultural policy since the Revolution. Lunch will be at

Paladar Ivan Chef Justo. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure, with an optional visit to the jeweler Jorge Gil. This evening is yours to spend at your leisure. Optional: late night (11:30 pm) drag show. (There is a very small transportation and entrance fee.) *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 13 - HAVANA

The morning is yours to spend at leisure. Lunch will be at *paladar* La Güarida, the setting for the famed film "Strawberry and Chocolate." You will have free time after lunch. At 7 pm, return via taxi to the home of Maggie Mateo for a catered dinner and discussion with a group of women who, when they were teenagers, fought in the underground movement in Havana to bring down the Batista dictatorship. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BLD)*

**During your free time, there will be opportunities to see dance performances, attend concerts, and even go to a baseball game, if the Havana team, the Industriales, is playing in town in January. We will keep you apprised of events.*

JANUARY 14 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight(s) home. (B)

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Carolee Bengelsdorf is professor emerita of politics in the School of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College. She is the founder of Hampshire's Cuba Program, both with the Cuban Union of Artists and Writers and the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana. Her first trip to the island was in 1969, and she has maintained close personal and scholarly contact since. She is the author of *The Problem of Democracy in Cuba* and numerous articles on Cuban women. Her current research involves an oral history of the girls and women who fought in the urban underground in Havana, from 1952 to 1959, to overthrow the Batista dictatorship.

Margaret Cerullo is professor of sociology and feminist studies in the School of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College. She first went to Cuba with Carolee in 1978 and has avidly followed developments on the island since. She has returned to Cuba many times to attend conferences and to direct Hampshire's annual semester-long academic program in Cuba. She is engaged in research about lesbians' experiences in Havana before and after the Revolution.

LAND PRICING

\$3,995

Includes the activities, entrance fees, accommodations, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, Cuban visa fee, private vehicle transportation except where indicated, full-time guide, all gratuities, and bottled water on the bus.

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THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$745 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until October 19, 2018, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.

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