

TOURING EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

The Idea of Cuba *Alex Harris*

This remarkable journey into contemporary Cuba by photographer and writer Alex Harris is both a powerful and mysterious evocation of life on the island and an original meditation on the nature of documentary photography that reveals what Harris has learned over thirty-five years as a documentary photographer.

Like his mentor, Walker Evans, who photographed Cuba in 1933 at a pivotal political moment, Harris arrived in Cuba with his camera at a crossroads in Cuban history. Well known for over thirty-five years of photographic work in the Hispanic Southwest, Alaska, and the American South, Harris made three trips to Cuba to photograph a nation coming to grips with the economic and social devastation that followed the collapse of the socialist bloc in 1989, a nation beginning to imagine a future without Fidel Castro.

On each trip to Cuba, Harris used a different approach to peer deeper into the fabric of Cuban society. In the foreground of Harris's photographs and text are some of the archetypes of contemporary Cuban life: the indomitable 1950s American car, the beautiful young woman, and the revered revolutionary hero. Yet Harris recasts these symbols. We don't look at the car, but through it to consider the tangled relationship between Cuba and the United States.

EXHIBITION SPECIFICATION

Presentation

All flat prints are presented in black metal anodized frames with Plexiglass glazing. Frames are not wired. Text Panels are mounted to gatorboard.

Required Space

Two Hundred and Forty to Three hundred (240-300) linear feet.

Loan Fee

The exhibition loan fee is \$8,000 for eight weeks (longer periods will be pro-rated). The participating institution will pay insurance and one-way shipping.

Insurance Value

\$80,000

All tour venues will be contractually required to carry appropriate and adequate wall-to-wall insurance coverage and to provide suitable documentation of such prior to shipment to that venue.

Shipping

The Registrar of the Southeast Museum of Photography will coordinate all shipping arrangements.

Security

Security, environmental and fire systems required. Facility report.

Credit Line

All images copyright Alex Harris. The Idea of Cuba: Photographs by Alex Harris is organized and circulated by the Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida and presented in cooperation with The Center For Documentary Studies at Duke University. This traveling exhibition is made possible by the support of the Fundacion Armistad, New York.

Itinerary

The exhibition will be available through 2010.

SERIES TITLE	QUANTITY AND MOUNTED/FINISHED SIZE (INCHES)
IMAGES	Fifty-Six (56) Dye Coupler (Type C) Prints (request checklist) and three (3) vintage Gelatin Silver prints
Women	9 squares (image size 30 x 30, matted size 36 x 36) 5 rectangles horizontal (image size 30 x 37, matted size 36 x 43) 1 rectangle vertical (image size 37 x 30, matted size 43 x 36)
Marti	6 squares (image size 30 x 30, matted size 36 x 36) 16 horizontal rectangles (image size 30 x 37, matted size 36 x 43)
Cars	10 rectangles (image size 40 x 50, framed flush, no matt)
Statues	6 squares (image size 30 x 30, matted size 36 x 36) 3 horizontal rectangles (image size 30 x 37, matted size 36 x 43)
Walker Evans Photographs	3 (11 x 14 matted to 16 x 20 (two vertical, one horizontal))
TEXT PANELS	Four (4) Text Panels (request checklist)



“Everyone seems to be waiting. A young woman in a pink shirt leans against a pillar. Two men sit on a stoop and look in her direction. Like most Havana streets, this one, Calle Zapatos in Santos Suárez, has seen better days. A glance reveals generations of faded paint, cracked plaster, and worn-down sidewalks. It’s a curious kind of waiting—at once lethargic and restless—that I’ve become accustomed to in Cuba. Whatever is going to happen seems a long way off.”

—Alex Harris

Alex Harris is professor of the practice of public policy and documentary studies at Duke University and a founder of the Center for Documentary Studies and of *DoubleTake* magazine. He is the author or editor of a dozen books, including *River of Traps* (UNM Press) with William deBuys, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction.



Publication

The Idea of Cuba - Photographs and Text by Alex Harris, with an essay by Lillian Guerra (Yale University) will be published by the University of New Mexico Press in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University in the fall of 2007.

Contact

Kevin Miller
 Director, Southeast Museum of Photography
 Daytona Beach Community College
 1200 West International Speedway Blvd.
 Daytona Beach FL 32114.
 386.334.4980 | millerk@daytonastate.edu