Cuba: An Insider’s View
XIII Havana Art Biennial
With local experts Wilfredo Benítez and Joel Estévez González
April 23–28, 2019
Dear Travelers and Friends,

Please join the Museum Travel Alliance and Montclair Art Museum for a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in one of the most interesting art festivals in the Western Hemisphere. The thematically based Havana Biennial features the best of Cuban visual artists as well as those from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

This special trip is designed for art lovers and collectors—be it your first time in Havana or as a repeat visitor to this amazing city. Mingle with curators, artists, and collectors at the XIII Havana Art Biennial. In the last Havana Biennial, more than 200 artists participated, with works in over 80 locations throughout the city. The festival is centered at the Spanish fortress known as La Cabaña, which offers incredible views of the city and harbor entrance. We will also experience Old Havana on a walking tour, visit a cigar factory, savor a mojito at the Hotel Nacional, and meet emerging artists in their homes and studios.

We look forward to welcoming you on this singular exploration of Cuba and the Havana Biennial, in the congenial company of members from a number of museums and cultural institutions.

Sincerely,

Lora Urbanelli
Director,
Montclair Art Museum

HIGHLIGHTS

**ENJOY** exclusive access to festivities and events at the XIII Havana Art Biennial and connect with artists, collectors, museums curators, and gallery dealers; entry pass for Biennial sites and printed materials

**LEARN** about Cuban art and architecture during conversations with the Wilfredo Benítez, Executive Director of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, and Joel Estévez González, an architect and urban planner

**MEET** local and international artists during the Havana Biennial as well as in their homes and studios

**ENJOY** the art of dance by attending an informal morning rehearsal of contemporary dance

**TOUR** the famous National Arts School complex, not typically open to the public

**TAKE** a private curatorial tour of the Museum of Fine Arts

**STAY** at the elegant Hotel Saratoga, in the UNESCO-recognized Old City
TUESDAY, APRIL 23: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA
Arrive independently in Havana, where you will be met at the José Martí Airport and transferred to the elegant Hotel Saratoga, our home for five nights. Located in the heart of the city, this historic hotel overlooks the Capitolio and Paseo Prado. In the early evening, enjoy an introductory conversation by Wilfredo Benítez, Executive Director of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba. Then tour the Hotel Nacional (1930), originally designed by McKim, Mead & White. After exploring the history and architecture of this renowned hotel, have a mojito on a terrace overlooking the sea. Our welcome dinner is at a paladar, a privately owned restaurant that operates with the special permission of the Cuban government.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: HAVANA
Early this morning, take a guided tour of a local cigar factory. Then drive to the complex of the National Arts Schools and the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Cuba’s leading art school. En route see the neighborhood of Miramar, and learn about its glamorous history in the Havana of the ’50s. At ISA join a professor (who is an artist) for a guided visit through the school’s studios and work spaces. Following lunch embark on an architectural tour of the city, focusing on the Art Deco and Mid-Century masterpieces that define Havana’s historic style, led by Joel Estévez González. For those who wish, we have arranged an evening tour of Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), a converted cooking oil factory that has become the city’s hippest art space.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: HAVANA
Join Joel Estévez González, an architect and urban planner, for a morning talk followed by a walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. After lunch at a restaurant near the cathedral, explore exhibitions and participate in events of the XIII Havana Art Biennial. This evening, visit the Ludwig Foundation for a special presentation on the organization’s mission and the young contemporary artists it supports. The Foundation’s Director will host a cocktail reception and dinner on the penthouse terrace, where we will be joined by some of the city’s emerging artists. Late evening entertainment is available at several famed music venues including the Tropicana.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 26: HAVANA
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, located adjacent to the Plaza de la Revolución. Then visit Colón Cemetery, whose many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. In the afternoon attend a discussion on Cuba’s current reality by a former deputy minister for foreign affairs. Continue to meet some of the city’s leading artists in their homes and studios for lively discussions of Cuba’s thriving contemporary art scene before dinner at a paladar. B,D

SATURDAY, APRIL 27: HAVANA
This morning take a private curatorial tour of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, which houses a remarkably comprehensive collection of works by Cuban artists, led by Wilfredo Benítez. The remainder of the day is reserved for further Biennial events and discussions with emerging artists. Our farewell dinner is at one of Havana’s top paladares. B,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 28: HAVANA / RETURN
Group and individual airport transfers will be arranged this morning for flights home. Pending flight schedules, visit the Museum of Decorative Arts, housed in a former mansion completed in 1927, or return to the Biennial. B

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Montclair Art Museum and The Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL SARATOGA
Located in atmospheric Old Havana, the historic Hotel Saratoga reopened in 2005 after an extensive refurbishment that preserved the original façade. Renowned in the 1930s for the international artists and socialites who stayed here, today’s Saratoga caters to discerning travelers with interests in history and culture as well as Havana’s famous nightlife. From its prime perch on the Paseo del Prado opposite the incomparable Capitolio building, the Saratoga features a rooftop pool, restaurant, and bar with views of the city, as well as a lobby restaurant, mezzanine bar, business center, spa, and fitness center. All rooms have air conditioning, showers and separate bathtubs, hairdryers, makeup mirrors, safes, minibars, telephones, satellite TVs, and DVD players.

PROGRAM RATE
$4,999 per person, double occupancy
$6,249 single rate

RATE INCLUDES
- Five nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at welcome and farewell dinners
- HAV airport/hotel/HAV airport transfers for all participants
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: International airfare; Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
To reserve a place, please call The Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to The Museum Travel Alliance. Mail to: The Museum Travel Alliance, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

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**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Hotel room preference

- [ ] One bed
- [ ] Two beds
- [ ] Single

I wish to share a room with

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**FORM OF PAYMENT**

- [ ] Enclosed is my check (payable to The Museum Travel Alliance)
- [ ] Debit card
- [ ] Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

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