



AMERICAN FRIENDS of the
LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

Newsletter Topics

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December 2012

The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC) has been building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through exchange programs in the arts since 2000. Working together with our partner, the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a non-governmental institution in Havana, we continue to play an important role by providing professional development for artists and art professionals who participate in programs and research projects taking place in Cuba and the U.S.

New Board Members

AFLFC happily announces the addition of Michael Brophy, Anna Carbonell, Yulia Dulstina, Sarah Doty, James Durkin, Alina Montes, Dorothy Pentzke, Madalena Sheehan and Lisa Villareal to its Board of Directors.

Cuba's Cultural Riches and Havana's Vibrant Art Scene

AFLFC's cultural programs provide a unique opportunity to experience Cuba's cultural riches and Havana's vibrant art scene. Highlights of our programs this year include:

- Lessons on printmaking techniques at Taller Experimental de Gráfica
- Visits to artists' studios and dinners with visual and performing artists
- Lecture and reception at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba
- Walk through Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes with Vice Director
- Visit to the Hemingway Home and Museum
- The Havana International Jazz Festival
- Rehearsals of Danza Contemporánea
- Visit to the Museo de Guanabacoa to learn about Afro-Cuban religions and dance
- Visits to Cienfuegos and Trinidad to learn about Cuba's approach to preservation
- Attending a rehearsal of a new opera based on Cuba's Instituto Superior de Arte
- Participation in Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema
- A day in the ecological community of Las Terrazas



Celebrating Dr. Alex Rosenberg's book, *Tasación de Obras de Arte* at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba



Artist Yoan Capote presenting his work to AFLFC's group. In the background is a painting with fish-hooks from his exhibition, *American Appeal*.



Havana Night Benefit Gala

On March 14, A Havana Night Benefit Gala honored Karen Hopkins, President of BAM and Helmo Hernandez, President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba for their efforts to foster cultural exchange between the U.S. and Cuba through ¡Sí Cuba! and their on-going programs between the two countries.

More than 200 people celebrated the honorees with AFLFC at the Copacabana, shopped at its auction filled with Cuban art and a variety of treasures and enjoyed a fabulous dinner by chef Alex García of Calle Ocho.

Carole Rosenberg, President of AFLFC, giving an award to Karen Hopkins, President of the BAM



Browsing at the Silent Auction

13th Havana Film Festival New York

8,500 people attended the 13th annual *Havana Film Festival New York* in April 2012. More than 40 films from and about Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos in the U.S. included Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Peru, and Venezuela. A variety of genres and themes ranging from comedy, action, thrillers, drama documentaries and children's tales were presented in venues in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. The Quad Cinema in Manhattan had a week of screenings and Q&A sessions with filmmakers. Films from the indigenous peoples of Latin America were showcased, and Mayan filmmakers traveled to New



York from Guatemala to discuss their films. Our partnership with the Bronx Museum of the Arts was strengthened with a record-breaking attendance at the world premiere of the Cuban film, **Caminando Aragón/Timeless Journey: Orquesta Aragón**. Ian Padrón opened our week-end program at The Museum of the Moving Image in Queens with the NY premiere of *Habanastation*, a delightful family film. Opening and closing night screenings, festivities and awards ceremony took place at the Directors Guild Theatre.

The closing night celebration took place at SOB's Nightclub with Cuban band *Synthesis* and a special performance by M. **Tribute to Eslanda Nuñez and Raúl Pérez Ureta**



Actress **Eslanda Nuñez** is one of the most emblematic faces of Cuban cinema, a theater, television and film actress who has developed an interpretive style full of veracity, passion and total devotion as seen in *Lucía* by *Humberto Solas* and *Tómas Gutiérrez Memories of Underdevelopment*.

Raúl Pérez Ureta is known for his unique way of illuminating, framing composing and moving the camera. He is described as a cinematographer "who has created a contrasting, paradoxical aesthetic by beautifying unhappiness and casting a shadow over joy." His latest works are *Boleto al paraíso* by Gerardo Chijona and Fernando Perez's *José Martí: The Eye of the Canary*.



The 2012 Havana Star Prize:

- Best Picture** and **Best Director:** Sergio Ramirez for *Distancia/Distance* (Guatemala)
- Best Screenplay:** Jualiana Rojas & Marco Dutra for *Trabalhar Cansa/Hard Labor* (Brazil)
- Best Documentary:** Maria Fernanda Restrepo for *Con mi corazón en Yambo/With My Heart in Yambo* (Ecuador).



Our new partner Instituto Cervantes hosted a panel that addressed screenwriting, history and social memory in Latin American cinema



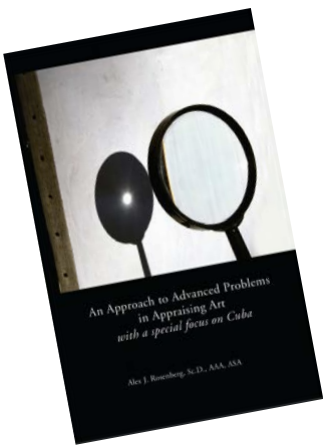
The Windows Project

Pedro Ruiz traveled to his hometown of Santa Clara, Cuba, to choreograph *El Camino* for the contemporary dance troupe Danza del Alma. AFLFC organized a group that traveled to Cuba for the premiere. Highlights included children's dance performances (ages 8-16), an opportunity to interact with the dancers, lunch with a local family and a lecture by Rena Perez about Cuban daily life. As part of the dance project, an American lighting designer, Kyle Rosenberg, exchanged current practices and new ideas with local lighting specialists in Santa Clara.

Educational Exchange programs in Cuba

More than 100 students from four colleges and universities participated in Student Abroad Study Programs at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba. Students from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU continued their courses in Documentary Video Production, Photography, art and culture; Graduate students from The Center for Global Affairs at NYU focused on Cuba's history, its political and economic system and international relations. Marymount College in Palos Verde, CA and CUNY's Baruch College courses were about Cuban history, society and culture.

Group learning about Cuban art at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes



Lectures

On May 2, AFLFC collaborated with the International Print Center New York on an exhibition of rare historical Cuban movie posters from the collection of Merrill C. Berman. Sandra Levinson, executive director of the Center for Cuban Studies, and the Cuban Art Space was invited to discuss the history of Cuba's movie posters and engaged in an interactive discussion on a walk through the show.

New Publication

This year with the support of the Ford Foundation, AFLFC published Dr. Alex Rosenberg's new book, *An Approach to Advanced Problems in Appraising Art with a Special Focus on Cuba*. Dr. Rosenberg presented the book on June 13th at the Rubin Foundation's 8th floor Gallery. The audience engaged in a lively Q&A following the talk. The hardcover (\$70) and softcover (\$40) books are available through AFLFC.

iPhone Boot Camp

Jonathan Sarno and James Eberhardt conducted a two week seminar at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba on creating iPhone applications and introduced the participants to programming on Apple devices. For most of them, it became the first experience programming for the Mac Operating Systems since these computers are not common in Cuba. As a result, LFC is planning to create a version of the foundation's 'clone' for mobile devices. This project was made possible with the funds by the Erica Hartman-Horvitz grant.





11th Havana Biennial



Cine Teatro Fausto in Habana Vieja on the Prado, at the corner of Esquina Colón in the Jaruco neighborhood, decorated by Colombian artist, Rafael Gómez Barrios for the 11th Havana Biennial.



The pictures on the sails of the *Ship of Tolerance* were painted by Cuban children.

The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and AFLFC assisted the internationally renowned, Russian-American artists, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov with producing their *Ship of Tolerance* at the 11th Havana Biennial. This project brought exchanges between American, Russian and Cuban teen-agers with exceptional musical skills whose magnificent performance in a historic church in Old Havana represented an important moment in cultural diplomacy.

AFLFC brought seventy-nine Americans to Havana in May and June 2012 to attend the 11th Havana Biennial. Featuring a wide array of emerging and established Cuban artists as well as cutting-edge international artwork. The *Havana Biennial* is one of the primary venues for exhibiting new art from Latin America and the developing world. AFLFC's cultural programs offered the opportunity to meet directly with artists featured in the biennial, attend exclusive openings of biennial projects, go behind the scenes at artist studios and explore public art projects throughout Havana.

Summer 2012

Six staff members of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba traveled to the U.S. to participate in cultural exchange programs. A program coordinator, a computer engineer and a lawyer interned at the Grand Circle Foundation in Boston. A photographer and public relation specialist lived with families and studied English in Burlington, VT. Another staff member joined the group on their visit to New York City where they were personally received by curators and staff members of NY's cultural institutions and museums including BAM, MoMA, PS. 1, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Guggenheim Museum, Frick Museum, Natural History Museum, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Museum of the Moving Image and The NY Public Library. They went to a Mets game, saw a play on Broadway, visited the artists Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, went to Coney Island, reconnected with students and professors at Tisch School of the Arts who have studied at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba. This experience enhanced their English language skills, developed new contacts and expanded their cultural and professional exposure.



Taking in all the sights on the Hudson River while sailing on the schooner, America.

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*Building cultural bridges between the United States and Cuba
through exchange programs in the Arts*

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