

## **School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Art Making in Cuba: An Interdisciplinary Exchange

January 5 – 12, 2001

The U.S. Treasury Department licenses the SMFA and SMFA faculty member Marcos Carvajal leads the program.

Experience the mysterious and fascinating culture of Cuba with this special, eight-day program that will allow for an exchange of ideas and experiences among art students, faculty and professional artists. As we travel to different sites near Havana-Old Havana and the towns of Regla, Viñales and Santa Maria del Mar –we will sketch, draw, paint, take video, photograph, research and exchange ideas with Cuban artists. SMFA professor and Cuban native Marcos Carvajal will lead the program.

Our journey will start in Old Havana. Founded in 1519, Old Havana's was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 because of its significant architectural, historical and cultural value. We will walk through narrow streets, visit Plaza de la Catedral (Cathedral Square), Plaza de Armas, museums, cultural center for visual art exhibitions, music concert and artist's galleries, and studios, Bodeguita del Medio (Hemingway's favorite place) and a concentration of elegant colonial palaces that are master works of art nouveau, art deco, and eclectic architectural styles. Many of Havana's finest buildings have been converted into museums, art galleries and theaters, providing an abundance of inspirational urban subject matter and opportunities for art making. Later, we will visit museums of art in Havana and the National Museum of Fine Arts with an outstanding collections of Cuban art from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present as well as European collections.

We will also travel to the old town of Regla, across the Havana Harbor a center of Afro-Cuban religions, where we will make art and explore Regla and visit Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla (Church of the Virgin of Regla), Municipal Museum devoted to religious syncretism emphasizing the worship of Yemaya, patron goddess of Havana Harbor. Later, we will travel to Viñales providing an abundance of inspirational rural landscape subject matter and opportunities for art making. The Viñales Valley, one of Cuba's greatest natural attractions, was declared a National Natural Monument for its remarkable landscape. It is the finest example of a karst valley in Cuba, where mogotes, knolls with rounded tops and steep slopes contrast harmoniously with the flat surface of the valley. Deep in the valley bottom you will find cultivated lands-mainly tobacco, taro and bananas and scattered peasant houses, all forming a spectacular landscape of great beauty. In Viñales we will spend the night at a country hotel located close to the Valley of Viñales.

We will visit The Callejon of Hamel neighborhood, subject of numerous documentaries about one of Cuba's famous painters: Salvador. The neighborhood is a wonderful and inspiring example of how inner city neighborhoods may become revitalized through resident participation in bold and innovative community art activities. Salvador has done murals throughout South America, North America and Europe.

Each day, a substantial portion of our time will be spend sketching, drawing, painting, or shooting, with SMFA faculty members Marcos Carvajal and Charles Goss providing instruction, suggestions, and critiques. In closing, we will have a group critique session and projects presentation to exchange ideas and experiences. Please bring drawing and painting supplies, video and photo cameras, film and a journal. All levels and abilities are welcome.

Our accommodations in Old Havana will be at Hotel Sevilla, fitted to American and European comfort. The hotel is surrounded by art galleries, parks, National Museum of Fine Arts, walking outdoor mall (Paseo del Prado), and palaces creating the magic atmosphere of its setting.

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“As humanistic endeavors among people, artistic creativity and learning goes beyond geographical frontiers and political ideologies”. *Professor Marcos Carvajal, M.Ed.*

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“Throughout the past century, Museum School students and alumni have studied abroad to experience other cultures, learn from living artists and see the great masterpieces of art history firsthand,” Said Deborah Dluhy, Dean of the SMFA and Deputy Director for Education at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA). “The chance to travel and explore new places and traditions is critically important in an artist’s education, and we are proud to offer American studio art classes in Cuba.”

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Gertrude Stein asked the French artist Henri Matisse whether, when eating a tomato, he looked at it the way an artist would. Matisse replied: “No, when I eat a tomato I look at it the way anyone else would. But when I paint a tomato, then I see it differently.”- Gertrude Stein. Picasso

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“When the artist is alive in any person, whatever his kind or work may be, he becomes an inventive, searching, daring, self-expressive creature. He becomes interesting to other people. He disturbs, upsets, enlightens, and opens ways for a better understanding. Where those who are not artists are trying to close the book, he opens it and shows there are still more pages possible.” - Robert Henri. *The Art Spirit*

## Course Goals

### ART MAKING

To provide diverse subject matter for art making:

- URBAN                      Old Havana
- LANDSCAPES            Viñales Valley
- SEASCAPES              Santa Maria del Mar beach

To provide a multidisciplinary approach to art making through:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Photography
- Video

## **EXCHANGE AMONG ARTISTS**

To facilitate the exchange among artists at various levels:

- The individual artist exchange with Cuban artists
- Multidisciplinary artists groups exchange at art center

## **CREATIVE URBAN RENOVATION**

To explore artistic community-based urban renovation projects:

- Old Havana renovation workshops

## **CUBAN ART HISTORY**

To learn about general and art history in Cuba:

- Spanish colonial art and architecture
- Afro-Cuban art
- Contemporary art exhibits in museums and galleries

## **Course Syllabus**

**I Course Title:** Making Art in Cuba: An Interdisciplinary Exchange Program

**II Credits:** 1.5

**III Course Content:**

This groundbreaking course will allow students of all levels, alumni, professional artists, and faculty to travel and explore Cuban culture and art history firsthand. We will create art in a variety of media, learn and exchange ideas with living artist and do art research. Occasionally we will reflect about artwork in process through individual and group critique.

**IV Course Objectives:**

1. Explore Cuban culture and art history firsthand
2. Create works of art in a variety of media
3. Learn and exchange ideas with living artists
4. Explore artistic community-based urban renovation projects
5. Develop skills for group and self art critique

**V Teaching Methods:**

**Fieldtrips:** These are sessions dedicated to explore, learn, and create art using a variety of media in urban and natural environments.

**Demonstration and suggestions:** Individual instructions and suggestions about art making in process in a variety of media.

**Educational guided tours:** Learn firsthand from Cuban born English speaking guide about the history and the culture of Cuba

**Interdisciplinary exchange:** These are sessions dedicated to learn and exchange ideas with Cuban leaving artists.

**Journals:** On going writing based on art research and findings.

**Reflections and critique:** Sessions devoted to: 1. Exchange of ideas between professors and participants. 2. Group and self-critique of work of art in process.

**Conference:** Cuban Institute of Superior Art faculty members

## **VI Evaluation Methods:**

Presentation of art project, finished and in process work of art and journals. Attendance is required to educational fieldtrips, and critiques. All the above will be documented for credit.

## **VII Art Material:**

Do to the characteristics of a full-fieldtrip course like this, it is recommended that all art material be easy to carry. You should plan not to buy art material in Cuba.

**Drawing:** Pencils, all-purpose paper pad, crayons, pastels, eraser, or your own materials according to your own style of drawing. Material bag or “the organizer” canvas bag is recommended. The Stanrite Watercolor Easel is recommended. (The easel is a very sturdy, lightweight easel for field painting and drawing. The anodized aluminum telescoping legs are braced for rigidity. 30” long pad holder tilts from horizontal to vertical position and has 2 sliding “auto locks” to hold a paper block for drawing. Height adjusts for sitting (21-1/2”) or standing (39”), with pat holder in horizontal position. Dick Blick Art Materials, 1800 828-4548, or [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com) Product Number: Q50263-0000. List \$79.95, 42% off \$45.90 with source code R011000. Also available at Pearls Art Supplies. (Do not bring any can workable fixatif)

**Painting:** Acrylic paint, (Golden acrylic paint is recommended for its versatility), nylon and bristle brushes of all kind of size and width, Stonehenge paper pad 100% rag, towel to clean brushes, portable water container, acrylic medium, or your own materials according to your own style of painting. Material bag or “the organizer” canvas bag is recommended. The Stanrite Watercolor Easel is recommended, (the easel is a very sturdy, lightweight easel for field painting and drawing. The anodized aluminum telescoping legs are braced for rigidity. 30” long pad holder tilts from horizontal to vertical position and has 2 sliding “auto locks” to hold a paper block for painting. Height adjusts for sitting (21-1/2”) or standing (39”), with pata holder in horizontal position). Weights 3-1/2 pounds. Dick Blick Art Materials, 1800 828-4548, or [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com) Product Number: Q5026-0000. List \$79.95, 42% off \$45.90 with source code R011000. Also

available at Pearls Art Supplies. (Do not bring any can workable fixatif). If you decide to work with oil painting, think of slow process of drying.

**Video:** Video camera, blank videocassettes, lightweight easel, and comfortable bag for camera, cassettes, and journal. (Do not plan to buy your favorite blank videocassette in Cuba). Before your trip, test your camcorder, invest in a skylight filter to protect the lens, and charge the batteries. (Airport security personnel may ask you to turn on the camcorder to prove that it's what it appears to be.) The batteries of most new camcorders can be recharge with a universal or worldwide AC adapter charger (or multi voltage converter), usable whether the voltage is 110 or 220. All that's needed is the appropriate plug. Videotape is not damaged by X-rays, but it may be harmed by the magnetic field of a walk-through metal detector, ask that videotapes be hand-checked. It is doubtful you will be able to find videotape in Cuba, so bring plenty of blank tapes. Cuba uses the same television broadcast standard as the U.S.

**Photography:** Photography camera, film, lightweight easel, and comfortable bag for camera, film and journal. (Do not plan to buy your favorite film in Cuba). There some commercial facilities in Cuba that can-process film for you in prints are in 1 hour but no in Picture CD. Cuba is a photographer's paradise. Very rarely will anyone refuse to be photographed. Remember that, for the moment, photography is a hobby beyond the means of the average Cuban citizen, and for this reason, a portrait makes a good gift. You can be sure that your subject will eagerly await the photograph that you offer to send; if you promise them one, keep your word. If your camera is new or if you haven't used it for a while, shoot and develop a few rolls of film before you leave. Always store film in a cool, dry place – never in a car's glove compartment or on a shelf under the rear window. Every pass through an X-ray machine increases film's chance of clouding. To protect it, carry it in a clear plastic bag and ask for hand inspection at security. Such requests are usually accommodated at airports outside the U.S. and are virtually always honored at U.S. airports. Don't depend on a lead-lined bag to protect film in checked luggage-the airline may increase the radiation to see what's inside. And you can always request a hand-check on any item you do not wish to put through an X-ray machine. Don't forget to bring more film than you think you will need. The selection of film in Cuba is limited, and there is little guarantee that it has been stored properly.

**Laptops:** Before you depart, check your portable computer's battery, because you may be asked at security to turn on the computer to prove that it is what it appears to be. At the airport, you may prefer to request a manual inspection, although X-rays do not harm hard- or floppy disk storage. Also, register your laptop with the nearest customs office. You may want to find out about repair facilities.

**Journal:** For notes and sketches

**2001 Calendar:** As a time organizer.

## **VIII Art web sites recommended in Cuba**

[www.cult.cu/](http://www.cult.cu/)

[www.cult.cu/cptb/digital/digit.htm](http://www.cult.cu/cptb/digital/digit.htm) II Salon. Invitados. Marcos Carvajal

## IX Instructors' Biographies

Marcos Carvajal, SMFA Faculty. University of Havana, Cuba ('65); A.D; Art Institute of Pittsburgh ('68); Diploma, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston ('90); M.Ed. Cambridge College ('95); He works in sculpture, drawing, painting, digital painting and graphic design. Carvajal has exhibited at Boston First Night and Marblehead Art Festivals and Flower and Gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His sculptural work is included in the permanent collection of the Forest Hills Columbarium, Boston. Recent exhibits at 12<sup>th</sup> Summer Gallery 333 in Falmouth, Ma and as a guest artist at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Digital Art Exhibit at Mahadahonda Gallery in Havana, Cuba. [www.cult.cu/cptb/digital/digit.htm](http://www.cult.cu/cptb/digital/digit.htm) He has taught at the University of Puerto Rico, The School of Art Altos de Jajome in Puerto Rico, Monserrat College of Art and Cambridge College in Massachusetts. He is actually a partner in "Travel and Learn Programs" in Puerto Rico and Cuba. Marcos teaches courses at the SMFA [www.smfa.edu](http://www.smfa.edu) Continuing and International Education Program in Boston: "Painting in the Rain Forest in Puerto Rico" and "Making Art in Cuba: An Interdisciplinary Exchange".

Charles Goss has been teaching at the Museum School and Tufts University for 18 years. He works in sculpture, drawing/painting, installation and photography. He is represented by Art Horizons of Boston. He has been involved in exhibitions in the United States and in Europe with permanent installations in Boston and New York City. His last one person show was held at The European Illustration Museum in Hull, England. You can view his work at [www.arthorizons.com](http://www.arthorizons.com) He has also been involved with the development, design and directing of exchange programs in Europe for the last 12 years. As well as working in Cuba this year he will be continuing "Art in Amsterdam 2001" this summer; the only American summer studio program in Amsterdam. You may visit the web site at: [www.art-in-amsterdam.com](http://www.art-in-amsterdam.com)

## X Course Itinerary

**Friday/January 5 2001**

### **GROUP 1 – Professor Charles Goss**

#### **Contact Person at Airport – *Natasha Kobran***

Depart Boston-Check in at Logan at 11:00 am  
AC 809      LvBoston      12:30 pm      ArToronto      2:16 pm

Depart Toronto-Check in Cubana 4:00 pm  
CU 181      LvToronto      6:05 pm      ArHavana      9:45 pm

Transfer by Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) to Hotel Sevilla in Old Havana – 55 Trocadero, Prado, La Habana. Tel: 33856669

## **GROUP 2 – Professor Marcos Carvajal**

### **Contact Person at Airport - *John Williamson***

Depart NY-Check in at JFK Delta Terminal 2-Laxataca Desk at 5:00 pm  
TA 8001 LvNY 9:00 pm ArHavana 12:25 am

Transfer by Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) to Hotel Sevilla in Old Havana – 55 Trocadero, Prado, La Habana. Tel: 33856669

### **Saturday/January 6 2001**

**7-8:30AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)

**9:00AM** **WELCOME AND PRESENTATIONS (ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING BREAKFAST)**

**12:00PM** Lunch on your own (not included)

**1:30PM.** Transportation from Hotel Sevilla to Plaza de Armas in Old Havana  
**WALKING TOUR FROM PLAZA DE ARMAS TO CATHEDRAL PLAZA (MEETING PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING BREAKFAST)**

Plaza de Armas (the city's oldest square). Palacio de los Capitanes Generales (Palace of the Commanders-in Chief), now the Museo de la Ciudad de la Habana (City Museum), Palacio del Segundo Cabo (Second Corporal), Castillo de la Real Fuerza (Castle of the Royal Forces), El Templete, Palacio de los Condes de Santovenia (Palace of the Counts of Santovenia), Casa de la Comedia, Museo de Autos Antiguos (Old Car Museum), Casa del Arabe (Arab's House), Casa del Obispo (Bishop's House) is the Museo Numismatico (Currency Museum), The building on the corner of Calle Obispo, across from the square, houses a series of restored shops: the ice-cream parlor El Anon, the Casa del Café con Leche, the restaurant La Mina, and the water house, La Tinaja, The pharmacy, casa de infusiones (herbal tea shop), Hotel Ambos Mundos (Hernest Hemingway lived here), Ministerio de Educacion, Casa de Puerto Rico, Academia de la Lengua (Cuban Language Academy), Casa Benito Juarez, Casa de Africa (permanent exhibition of African cultures, including the Afro-Cuban collection of ethnologist Fernando Ortiz.

### **BREAK**

The Plaza de la Catedral (Cathedral Square), Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras, occupied by El Patio Restaurant, Cathedral, Casa de Lombillo, Casa del Marques de Arcos, (now the

Experimental Graphics Workshop), Casa de Chacon, now home to the Museo de Arte Colonial (Museum of Colonial Art).

**BREAK**

- 6:00PM** Dinner on your own (not included)  
**7:30PM** ICAP transportation to Hotel Sevilla  
**8:30-10PM** **OPTIONAL-** Consultation with instructors for project planning.  
**(ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING BREAKFAST)**

**Sunday/January 7 2001**

**7-8:00AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)

**8:00AM** **TOUR TO THE TOWN OF REGLA**

Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla (the Virgin of Regla is considered the equivalent of Yemaya, the goddess of the sea in the African Yoruba religion), Lenin Hill to Museo Municipal de Regla (Municipal Museum of Regla). (MUSEUM FEE - \$5.00 approx.)

**ART MAKING**

**11:30AM** Transportation to Hotel Sevilla

**12:00PM** Lunch on your own (not included)

**1:00PM** Walk from Hotel Sevilla to the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts). Trocadero St., btw. Zulueta and Monserrate. Tel: 624091. Cuban art from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present with artists such as Portocarrero, Wilfredo Lam, and Amelia Pelaez. (MUSEUM FEE - \$5.00 approx.)

**3:30PM** Transportation from the National Museum of Fine Arts to Pablo de la Torriente Brau Cultural Center at 110 Oficios St., btw. Lamparilla y Amargura, Old Havana Tel: 339585, 619171, 619172.

**4:00PM** Visit to Pablo de la Torriente Brau Cultural Center for an exchange with artists in the fields of painting, graphic design, photography, digital art, and music. Art sale. (suggested donation -\$5.00 USD)

**5:00PM** Concert at the Center's open patio.

**7:00PM** Dinner on your own (not included)

**8:00PM** Informal visit to PTB Art Center artist's galleries, workshops and studios in Old Havana. Possible guest artists Eduardo Roca (Choco), Nelson Dominguez, Zaida Del Rio, Ernesto Rancaño, Roberto Fabelo, Pedro Pablo Oliva, Jose Luis Posada and others.



## Monday/January 8 2001

- 7-8:00AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)
- 8:00PM** Transportation to the city's historian's restoration workshops: clocks, metals, marble, wood, lamps, textiles, glass, archeological material and documentation
- 11:30PM** Transportation to Hotel Sevilla
- 12-1:00PM** Check out
- 1-2:00PM** Lunch on your own (not included)
- 2:00 PM** Transportation to the Instituto Superior de Arte-ISA (Higher Institute of Art) (ISA) – 120 St. #1110, btw 9<sup>th</sup> y 13<sup>th</sup>, Cubanacan, Playa, Ciudad de la Habana. Tel: 21 60 75
- Brief introduction to ISA and guided tour of the Plastic Arts Department (Ricardo Porro Building).
- Conference by faculty from the Cuban Studies Department based on "How Cuban cultural traditions such as Afro-Cuban, Caribbean, Hispanic, European, South and North American influence the creative individual?"
- 5:00PM** Transportation to Hotel La Hermita at Viñales Valley in the Pinar del Rio Province
- EVENING** Dinner at La Hermita (included)
- 8:00PM** **OPTIONAL-** Participants check with instructor for art work in process.

## Tuesday/January 9 2001

- 7-8:00AM** Breakfast at La Hermita (included)
- ART MAKING**
- 11-12:00AM** Check out
- 12:00AM** Lunch on your own (not included)
- 1:00PM** **VIÑALES VALLEY TOUR AND RETURN TO HAVANA**

Minas de Matahambre, Mural de la Prehistoria in the Valley of Dos Hermanas. Return towards Puerto Esperanza, Cueva de Jose Miguel, Cueva del Indio, Manantiales de San Vicente.

**5-6:00PM CHECK IN HOTEL SEVILLA**

Dinner on your own (not included)

**FREE EVENING**

**8:00PM OPTIONAL-** Informal visit to artist Arturo Montoto's studio.  
[www.arturo-montoto.com](http://www.arturo-montoto.com)

**Wednesday/January 10 2001**

**7-8:00AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)

**8:00 AM ART MAKING ALL DAY**

**OPTIONAL** - Visit and art making at El Callejon of Hamel or visit on your own Museum of the City of Havana at the Plaza de Armas, National Music Museum, National Museum of the Castle of the Royal Forces (the oldest colonial fortress in the Americas, 1577), Museum of the Revolution (the luxurious mansion that was the residence of the Presidents of the Republic between 1920 and 1960). All of these sites are located in Old Havana. The Decorative Arts and Napoleonic Museums are located at Vedado Neighborhood in Havana. According to the classification by UNESCO, 14 out of 280 museums in Havana are museums of art.

**Thursday/January 11 2001**

**7-8:00AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)

**8:30PM** Transportation to Santa Maria del Mar beach

**ART MAKING**

Lunch (included)

**ART MAKING**

**3:00PM** Transportation to Hotel Sevilla

**5:00PM GROUP 1** Critique with Professor Goss

**7:00PM** Dinner on your own (not included)

**8:00PM GROUPS 1 and 2**

Transportation to Casa de la Amistad for Farewell Party

**Friday/ January 12 2001**

**7-8:00AM** Breakfast at Hotel Sevilla (included)

**GROUP1**

**9:00AM** Check out

**10:00 AM** Transportation from Hotel Sevilla to airport

**11:15 AM** Check in (**20.00 USD departure tax**)

CU 180 - Lv Havana 1:15 pm Ar Toronto 5:00pm

AC 830 - Lv Toronto 7:40 pm Ar Boston 9:09pm

**10-12:00AM** **GROUP 2** Critique with Professor Carvajal

**12:00** Lunch on your own (not included)

**1-6:00PM** **FREE AFTERNOON**

**5-7:00PM** **GROUP 2** Check out

**6-7:00PM** Dinner on your own (not included)

**7:30PM** **GROUP 2 - OPTIONAL-** Visit to Morro-Cabaña Historical Military Park. When Havana was a walled city, every night at 9:00PM La Cabaña fortress would fire one of its cannon to announce the closing of the city's doors, a tradition preserved by the people of Havana to this very day.

**11:00PM** Transportation to airport

**12:25 am** Check in (**20.00 USD departure tax**)

TA 8570 - Lv Havana 3:00 am / Ar JFK Terminal 3 - 6:25 am