



AMERICAN FRIENDS *of the* LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

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ABOUT US

The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization chartered in the State of New York, 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 a central role in fostering U.S.-Cuban cultural exchange. Our areas of work include educational and cultural exchange and professional development opportunities for artists, art professionals, and students; the annual Havana Film Festival NY; and year-round film programs, visual arts exhibitions and lectures, music concerts, and bi-national dance works. We inspire artists, assist researchers, disseminate art information, provide instruction on new technology and software, excite audiences, and facilitate communication between the art communities in both countries. We offer unique cultural travel programs to the island that expose American travelers to Cuba's cultural riches while generating meaningful personal connections.

CUBA'S CULTURAL RICHES AND HAVANA'S VIBRANT ART SCENE

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

- Lessons on printmaking techniques at Taller Experimental de Gráfica
- Visit to artists' studios and dinners with visual and performing artists
- Lectures and receptions at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba
- Guided walkthrough of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Instituto Superior de Arte, and Galería Habana
- Visit to the home of a Santería priest and rituals to learn about Afro-Cuban religions and dance
- Rehearsals and performance by Malpaso, Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, and Endedans dance companies
- Private jam sessions at local musician's homes
- Classical music concerts and performances at the newly restored Teatro Martí
- Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema International Jazz, Music and Ballet Festivals
- Dinners with gallery and museum directors, visual and performing artists, and filmmakers
- Visits to Finca la Vigía, Hemingway home and museum
- Day excursions to Las Terrazas, Matanzas and Viñales
- Trips to UNESCO World Heritage Sites Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba

Top: AFLFC Group visits the Universidad de las Artes (ISA), formerly known as the Instituto Superior de Arte. Established in 1979 as one of the most unique universities and architectural achievements following the Cuban Revolution, ISA continues to be a leading institution in the arts. It is listed in the Cultural category of the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Left: AFLFC Group trip in Plaza de Armas December 10th



THE 17TH HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

The annual Havana Film Festival NY— our flagship project, now the longest-running festival celebrating Latino cinema in NYC— uses art as a catalyst to bridge cultural gaps between Cuba and the U.S. The 17th HFFNY continued to do so, celebrating the year's most illuminating cinema and time honored films from and about Cuba and Latin America. April 7-15, HFFNY screened 45 Latino films to an audience of 16,000 in venues across NYC, premiering award-winning features from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Latinos in the U.S. Among the selection were features and documentaries that won awards in multiple categories at major international film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Venice, and Berlin. We presented three World, seven U.S., and 16 NY Premieres.

This year Diana Vargas, HFFNY's long-time Artistic Director, focused on emerging opportunities in Cuba when deciding on the programs. Industry professionals from Cuba and the U.S. offered perspectives on the past, present, and future of filmmaking in Cuba. Programs included: The Actor and the Camera; Tomás Gutiérrez Alea: 20 Years Later; Shooting in Cuba; Documenting the Cuban Rhythm Today; and Cuban Rhythms: Special Thalia Docs Edition. HFFNY also paid homage to Isabel Santos and Enrique Molina, two of the most emblematic faces of Cuban cinema. Films screened at the Village East Cinema, Directors Guild Theater, and venues across the city in partnership with cultural institutions including Bronx Museum of the Arts, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU, Museum of the Moving Image, Instituto Cervantes, and Symphony Space.



HFFNY Opening Night at Director's Guild Theatre sold out for NY Premiere of Pavel Giroud's *The Companion*.



NY premiere of Irish-Cuban co-production, *Viva* (dir. Paddy Breathnach), at the School of Visual Arts Theatre, shortlisted for this year's Foreign Language Oscar.



NYC high school class attend screening of *My Friend from the Park* and pose with director Ana Katz.

Tribute to Enrique Molina and Isabel Santos

Enrique Molina is one Cuba's most iconic actors, winning universal admiration for each of his performances. His breadth of roles is undeniably prolific— with an active career in film, radio, theater, and television. The preference evinced by directors of all generations towards Molina demonstrates the full force of an actor who has chosen the versatility and registry of change as his main professional creed. He received the Alejo Carpentier medal in recognition of his artistic contribution to the cultural development of the island.



Actor Enrique Molina addresses curious students and cinephiles at NYU's KJCC

Isabel Santos' contributions to the world of Cuban acting are significant. Famed director Jorge Luis Sánchez has stated that she marks "a before and after in the way of acting in Cuban cinema... an actress who made restraint and sobriety into an acting expression in order to show a truth." Born in 1961 in Camagüey, she graduated from the National Art School (ENA) in 1982. She has developed an intense and successful career in television, radio, and cinema. Santos stars in Lester Hamlet's newest release, *Ya no es antes*, a bittersweet depiction of a relationship paused for over forty years. Be sure to check it out at next year's festival.



Isabel Santos after a screening of her newest film, *Cuba Libre* (dir. Jorge Luis Sánchez)

Cuban Rhythms: Special Thalia Docs Edition

HFFNY partnered with Symphony Space to present a very special series that celebrated music as depicted in the country's documentary cinema. Included were U.S. and NY Premieres of films exploring folkloric and popular styles, as well as tributes to legendary Cuban musicians Rita Montaner, Omara Portuondo, and the Nueva Trova movement.

The 2016 Havana Star Prize

Best Feature:

MAGALLANES
Salvador del Solar (Peru)

Best Actor:

Luis Gnecco (Chile) for
EL BOSQUE DE KARADIMA /
THE CHURCH OF KARADIMA

Best Director:

Santiago Mitre (Argentina)
for LA PATOTA/PAULINA

Best Documentary:

LA PRENDA / THE PAWN
Jean-Cosme Delaloye
(Guatemala-Switzerland)

Best Actress:

Dolores Fonzi (Argentina)
for LA PATOTA / PAULINA

Best Screenplay:

Pavel Giroud, Pierre Edelman,
and Alejandro Bruges
(Cuba, Colombia, Panama,
Venezuela, France) for
EL ACOMPAÑANTE /
THE COMPANION

A HAVANA NIGHT BENEFIT GALA

This year's annual A Havana Night Benefit Gala was an especially spectacular event as we honored two people whose contributions and dedication to artistic and educational exchange between the United States and Cuba have changed the lives of countless artists, art professionals, students, and people in general: Helmo Hernandez, President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, and our own Carole Rosenberg, AFLFC President and Co-Founder.

More than 200 guests joined us at NYC's legendary Copacabana Night Club to celebrate Carole's birthday together with the extraordinary work she and Helmo have done building cultural bridges between the two countries, shop our auction showcasing outstanding works of Cuban and international art, rum, cigars, and other treasures, and dance the night away to the musical stylings of famed composer, educator, musician, and GRAMMY Award winning pianist and bandleader Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble.

Top: Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble entertaining the guests at the Gala.
Right: Honorees AFLFC President Carole Rosenberg, LFC President Helmo Hernandez with HFFNY Artistic Director Diana Vargas.



ARTHAMPTONS CELEBRATES CUBAN ART

AFLFC worked as a proud Cultural Partner with the annual ArtHamptons Fair, June 23-26. Together with Galería Habana, we made sure Cuban art had a presence at this year's fair. The exhibition Artchipelago (Because every artist is an Island) featured the work of a dozen artists, including Roberto Fabelo, Yoan Capote, Ivan Capote, Adonis Flores, Manuel Mendive, Carlos Quintana, Carlos Garcia de la Nuez, Ariamna Contino, Glende Leon, Alexandre Arrechea, Carlos Garaicoa, and Belkis Ayon.

This Special Exhibit was presented in conjunction with a panel led by AFLFC President Carole Rosenberg, Director of Galería Habana Luis Miret, and artist, art historian, critic, and curator Tonel (Antonio Eligio Fernández) on "Cuban Art Today." They addressed the role of the art market and of local and foreign collectors, as well as the globalized situation in which Cuban art participates today. The works and artists covered are essential to Havana's current, dynamic arts scene.



Views of gallery exhibition Artchipelago (Because every artist is an Island) at ArtHamptons Fair in Bridgehampton, NY.



Yoan Capote, *In tran-sit (the weight of distance)* 2014, Bronze sculpture exhibited at ArtHamptons and currently in the garden at Long-House Reserve, East Hampton, NY.



Carole Rosenberg is joined by Sean Kelly, owner of Sean Kelly Gallery in New York, Juana Valdes, a Cuban-born multidisciplinary artist, and Holly Block, Executive Director of the Bronx Museum of the Arts in a panel moderated by Marek Bartelik, President of AICA International, and Barbara MacAdam, Co-Executive Director of ARTnews.

LECTURES

On April 27th, in anticipation of the XLIX Congress of AICA International in Havana, Cuba, AFLFC President Carole Rosenberg participated in a discussion on the contemporary art scene in Cuba at the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation. The panel addressed issues related to the current state of art and art criticism in Cuba and in the context of ongoing changes in that country, and considered its expanding cultural exchange with the United States and other countries.

HFFNY's Artistic Director, Diana Vargas, was invited to participate in panel discussion "Want to Advance your Business Career? Work with a Woman!" at the Chelsea Film Festival.

HELP US BUILD CULTURAL BRIDGES

Here at AFLFC, we have been working tirelessly to cultivate cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Cuba. Together with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC) we consistently generate programs and projects that deeply touch and transform the lives of artists, students, art professionals, and the general public in both countries. The connections we create extend beyond our initiatives and have cemented AFLFC's reputation as a leader in artistic, cultural, and educational exchange between the U.S. and Cuba.

We need your help and rely on your tax-deductible donations to keep our inspirational programs going strong. In this time of warming relations, all we see are emerging opportunities—new chapters of U.S.-Cuban cultural exchange. Given our well-established network and legacy, we are uniquely positioned to take advantage of this historic time and expand our successful model of cooperative programming in the arts. However, this is only possible with your support. Please be as generous as possible; every donation, large or small, allows us to continue offering educational and professional development opportunities that provide life-changing experiences.

A sincere "thank you" to all of you who support us in one way or another. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Carole Rosenberg

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AFLFC's programs and projects have given artists, art professionals, and students from Cuba and the U.S. opportunities for personal growth and professional development. We have partnered with leading institutions in both countries including Lincoln Center Director's Lab, Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, Modern Art Foundry, MoMA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC), Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and other colleges and universities. We encourage research projects in both countries, and internships that develop professional skills. Our experience has been that such projects have resulted in important networking and expanding opportunities. We are excited to announce that this year:



Panel discussion, *Shooting in Cuba* featuring *Papa* director Bob Yari, NYC-based Cuban director Asori Soto, and U.S. filmmaker, activist, and educator Catherine Murphy. Moderated by Professor Michelle Farrell.



Brian De Palma discusses filmmaking at the 38th Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana.



Oliver Stone holds a press conference about his latest film, "Snowden," which he presented at the 38th Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana.

- NYU's Tisch School of the Arts invited Cuban photographer Adrian Fernandez and Ludwig Foundation President Helmo Hernandez to teach a course on documentary photography to undergraduates studying abroad.
- Paul Meleschnig continued his photographic series of daily life in the streets of Havana and presented his work at LFC. Also inspired by the people of Havana, William Martin, a senior at NYU, spent the summer working on his documentary film that provides an intimate perspective of the lives of Cubans living through the societal and political changes of today.
- AFLFC collaborated with the Havana Film Festival in Havana and arranged for Oliver Stone, Brian De Palma, and members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts to travel to Havana and participate in workshops and panel discussions at the International Festival of New Latin American Cinema and the prestigious International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV). AFLFC arranged the travel and participation of the team behind the new film *The Rendezvous*, which had its international premiere at the Yara Theater in Havana. The team included producers Tricia Gibbs and Dan Halsted, founder of Management, consulting producer Peter Graves, executive producer Amanda Rohlke, screenwriter Terrel Seltzer, and director Amin Matalqa.
- Master Teacher Ana Marie Forsythe, Chair of the Horton Department at the Ailey School taught a Horton Technique master class for the first time in Cuba.
- For the first time Cuban dancers participated in the Fire Island Dance Festival. Jesus Arias and Armando Gomez, principal dancers from Ballet Contemporaneo de Camaguey, premiered Pedro Ruiz's newest work.

Jesus Arias and Armando Gomez in Fire Island Dance Festival.

