

VMI FA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

THE ART & ARCHITECTURE OF CUBA



Havana, Matanzas & Varadero

January 8 to 16, 2016



Dear Friends,

With the restoration of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, more Americans than ever are interested in visiting this country—yet very few will have the opportunity to see Cuba on the eve of such far-reaching changes. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to invite you once again to discover this enigmatic island.

Next January, spend a week in this captivating Caribbean nation to explore The Art & Architecture of Cuba. On a special people-to-people program led by Sarah Eckhardt, VMFA's Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, we will connect with locals from all walks of life—from diplomats and museum directors to students, printmakers, dancers, and musicians.

Begin in Havana, where we stay at the graceful Hotel Parque Central, in the heart of the Old City. Meet leading artists on visits to their studios and homes and at a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. Take a curator-led tour of the Cuban art collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts, and admire the beautiful craftsmanship on display at the Ceramics Museum on an after-hours visit. See Ernest Hemingway's evocative country retreat, Finca La Vigía, in the village of San Francisco de Paula, and discover the fishing village of Jaimanitas, where artist José Fuster has decorated more than 80 houses with ornate murals and domes.

Travel beyond Havana to explore the rich cultural heritage of Matanzas, known as the “Athens of Cuba,” where highlights include a private performance in a hilltop chapel, the 19th-century Pharmacy Museum, and a unique publisher of handmade books. Enjoy lunch at Xanadu, the former du Pont mansion built in the 1930s. In Cárdenas, meet with local artists in their studios before spending the night in nearby Varadero.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



DR. SARAH ECKHARDT
VMFA's Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, received her BA from Valparaiso University and her MA and PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was awarded a Henry Luce Dissertation Fellowship

for her dissertation, Hedda Sterne and the Abstract Expressionist Context. The department is responsible for the museum's early 20th-century European holdings as well as the mid-to-late 20th-century and 21st-century collections, including photography and the sculpture garden. Before coming to VMFA, Dr. Eckhardt worked at the Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and at The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. ♦

Specially arranged performances of music and dance will enhance our visit, as will lectures on Cuban architecture and politics. There will also be an opportunity to dine in a *paladar*—a privately owned restaurant often located in the owner's home.

We hope you will join us on this immersion in the many celebrated arts of Cuba.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hutch Livingston".

Adele “Hutch” Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel



THE ART & ARCHITECTURE OF CUBA

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Colorful buildings in Old Havana

January 8
Friday

MIAMI

Arrive independently at the Miami International Airport Hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and information regarding the flight to Havana.

January 9
Saturday

MIAMI / HAVANA

Meet in the hotel lobby in the early morning and proceed to the departure area for a regularly scheduled chartered flight to Havana. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, transfer to the Hotel Parque Central for lunch and check-in. In the early evening, attend an introductory lecture on Cuba's current social and political realities by a former ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs. Our welcome dinner is at a lively local restaurant.

January 10
Sunday

HAVANA

Join an architectural historian for a morning lecture, followed by a walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. See photography works exhibited at the Fototeca de Cuba before lunch near the cathedral. Afternoon visits are arranged in the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. The evening is at leisure. You may wish to dine at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant often located in the owner's home.

January 11
Monday

HAVANA

After a morning lecture, tour Havana's modern and art deco architecture, including Colón Cemetery, whose many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. With such ornate tombstones, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Continue to Taller Gráfico, the print workshop located at Plaza de la Catedral. Founded in 1962 by mural artist Orlando Suárez with the support of Che Guevara, this studio/workshop is one of the most important graphic arts establishments today, preserving the old printmaking techniques. Lunch is at leisure. In the afternoon, visit the Wilfredo Lam Center, and then walk to the Museum of Ceramics for a private after-hours tour, reception, and classic guitar presentation. Dinner will be in a nearby restaurant.

January 12
Tuesday

HAVANA

Today begins with a curatorial tour focusing on the Cuban art collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts. Continue to the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Cuba's leading art school, where a guided visit is planned. There will also be a chance to meet with professors and students and view their artwork. Lunch is at artist José Fuster's home and studio in the village of Jaimanitas, where he has decorated more than 80 houses with ornate murals and domes. Among the creations are a chess park with giant boards and tables, and an Artists' Wall composed of tiles signed and donated by other Cuban artists. On the way back to the hotel, stop at the Jewish Community Center in the Vedado neighborhood to meet with their representatives. This evening, drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace where invited guests include Cuban artists.

January 13
Wednesday

HAVANA / MATANZAS / CARDENAS / VARADERO

Depart for Varadero, stopping en route at the Bacunayagua Bridge, the highest in Cuba, with panoramic views of the nearby valley. Continue to Matanzas to visit Ediciones Vigía, where handmade books are created, and Cárdenas, to meet local artists and visit their studios. A late lunch is arranged at Xanadu, the beautifully restored former mansion built by the French- American millionaire Irénée du Pont de Nemours in 1930. Arrive in Varadero where overnight accommodations and dinner are at the Meliá Paradisus.



Old Havana (left) and ISA(right)



Photo by Pierre Langlois (top left), E.Doolaar (bottom left) and Keizers (right)

Parque de la Libertad, Matanzas (top left), Bacunayagua Bridge (bottom left), and Teatro Nacional, Havana (right)

January 14
Thursday

VARADERO / MATANZAS / HAVANA

This morning meet local ceramists at their workshop, Taller de Cerámica. After lunch at the hotel, return to Matanzas for a private concert at the Ermita de Monserrate hilltop chapel. There will be time to meet the performers following the concert. Continue downtown to the main square, Parque de la Libertad, surrounded by historical buildings, and visit the perfectly preserved, 19th-century Pharmacy Museum. Meet a renowned local sculptor in his studio before returning to Havana for an evening at leisure.

January 15
Friday

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 drive to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula to visit Finca La Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. We will view the rooms through open windows and see his fishing boat, the *Pilar*. Lunch is at leisure. In the late afternoon meet artist Damian Aquiles at his home and studio. Continue to the 18th-century Iglesia de Paula to attend a private performance with an opportunity to talk to the musicians, followed by our farewell dinner.

January 16
Saturday

HAVANA / MIAMI

After breakfast depart for the airport and the flight to Miami, arriving in the early afternoon.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM RATE \$5,695 per person, double occupancy **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$735 (limited availability)**

Rate Includes

- Overnight accommodations, double occupancy, at Miami International Airport Hotel (NOTE: no breakfast included)
- Round-trip flight Miami/Havana/Miami via regularly scheduled chartered flight
- Seven nights hotel accommodations in Cuba, as per itinerary
- Buffet breakfast daily, five lunches, five dinners. Bottled water, local beer, soft drinks, and coffee / tea with meals. Local wine at welcome and farewell dinners.
- Escorted sightseeing via private motorcoach as per itinerary, including services of a bilingual national guide throughout the program
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants
- Basic gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service and portage charges
- Cuban visa fee (excluding Cuban-born travelers), Cuban Departure tax and limited Cuban health insurance policy (for travelers under age 80)
- Pre-departure material, reading list and luggage tags

Not Included in Rate Airfare between home city and Miami; passport fees; beverages other than bottled water, and coffee / tea with meals; house wine with welcome and farewell dinners; personal items and expenses; trip cancellation insurance; excess baggage; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

FLIGHTS Roundtrip air to Cuba is via regularly scheduled charter flights from Miami. Business Class is not available. The tour operator for this program, Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA), will be pleased to assist with domestic air travel arrangements from home town to Miami for a processing fee of \$40 per person. Domestic airfare will be quoted on an individual basis and is payable by credit card only. Frequent flyer mileage cannot be accepted in conjunction with this program. Arrangements Abroad can be reached at 800-221-1944.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE \$1,500 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs without handrails at locations that are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. PLEASE NOTE: The Cuban health insurance coverage is limited to travelers under 80 years of age.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION/EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary and faculty leadership are subject to change at the discretion of AAA and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). All prices quoted are based on a minimum of 20 passengers, prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Individual deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of VMFA is limited to educational

sponsorship of the program (The Program) described on the website and in the trip brochure. AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, VMFA and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. Nor will AAA or VMFA and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. AAA and VMFA are not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or VMFA. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$500 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; VMFA shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor VMFA shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon trip payment to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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Academic Arrangements Abroad

On the cover: Artwork outside the National Museum of Fine Arts, Havana. Photo by Peter

CUBA WITH VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

RESERVATION APPLICATION | JANUARY 8 to 16, 2016

To reserve a place on this trip, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,500 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, New York 10018-3721.

PLEASE NOTE: Virginia Museum of Fine Art will be traveling to Cuba under a General license as defined by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). These regulations, which have been recently updated, require that program participants a) travel to and from Cuba with the group; b) participate fully in all program activities; and c) abide by the terms of the U.S. Embargo. Participants will receive a full explanation of these requirements upon registration, and will be asked to read and sign a form explaining in detail travel regulations under the new guidelines.

FIRST PARTICIPANT

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT		MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
HOME ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE (HOME)	(BUSINESS)	
FAX	E-MAIL	
PASSPORT NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE <i>(must be valid for six months after entry into Cuba)</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	
DATE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F GENDER	PLACE OF BIRTH

SECOND PARTICIPANT

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT		MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
HOME ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE (HOME)	(BUSINESS)	
FAX	E-MAIL	
PASSPORT NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE <i>(must be valid for six months after entry into Cuba)</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	
DATE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F GENDER	PLACE OF BIRTH

Accommodations

Hotel Room Preference Double Twin Single (at a supplement of \$735) I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Credit card (for deposit only; final payment must be made by check.)

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD	3- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE
CREDIT CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE

Each participant must sign below.

I/We confirm that I/we will fully participate in the cultural exchange activities of this People-to-People Program.

I/We confirm that I/we have fully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program.

I/We agree to the balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED	DATE
SIGNATURE REQUIRED	DATE

For more information, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad (an OFAC-licensed Travel Service Provider)
Telephone: 212.514.8921 or 800.221.1944 | Fax: 212.344.7493 | E-mail: trips@arrangementsabroad.com