CUBA: CELEBRATING HAVANA’S 12TH BIENNIAL
May 21-28, 2015
Accompanied by Lester Tomé, Assistant Professor of Dance History and Latin American Culture at Smith College

“Never mind the propaganda... Help yourselves to the happiness that travel to Cuba can bring..” Fidel Castro
Dear Friends:

Experience Havana’s 12th Biennial. It is a spectacular wide range of works, performances and collateral exhibitions which take over the city’s galleries and spill out into the numerous public areas of Havana. Overnight, the city transforms into one of the largest galleries in the world. Formed around a proposed theme, each work will attempt to explain what lies “Between the Idea and Experience.” The 2015 Biennial will include the work of approximately 150 artists from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Join us for this unique opportunity to take part of this Biennial while immersing yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba. Our program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture and allow the group to meet local residents and professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage.

This trip is being limited to 30 participants and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to make your reservation today!

Cordially,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, Smith College
Thursday, May 21
HAVANA
Depart Miami on a morning charter flight to Havana.
Upon arrival, visit the Hotel Nacional for a welcome “mojito” in the hotel’s Hall of Fame. The Hotel Nacional, an iconic hotel, opened in 1930 when Cuba was a prime travel destination for Americans.
Enjoy lunch outside on the beautiful grounds of the Hotel Nacional.
This afternoon enjoy a city orientation tour by bus led by architectural historian, Ayleen Robaiyna. The tour will include an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which, when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design.
Transfer to the Parque Central, ideally located in Old Havana.
Enjoy a private cocktail reception followed by a welcome dinner on the hotel roof-top. L,D.

Friday, May 22
HAVANA
Today is the opening day of the Biennial so depending on what events are happening related to that, the itinerary for today may be modified.
Enjoy a walking tour this morning of Old Havana. Of all the capital cities in the Caribbean, Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Restoration work in the old part of the city helps to reveal the glories of its past. View a scale model of Old Havana which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city.
Stop at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square that was in a sad state of repair for many years but is now being reversed by the caring restoration of Habana Vieja.
Lunch at La Moneda Cubana before enjoying afternoon visits to the Biennial Exhibits.
Enjoy drinks with Kadir Lopez followed by dinner this evening at the home of artist Sandra Ramos. Her works focus on the recovery of a social and individual memory, linked to the difficulties of the daily life in Cuba. B,L,D.

Saturday, May 23
HAVANA
After breakfast this morning, enjoy a lecture on “The Changing Faces of Cuba’s Economic Structure” by Professor Ricardo Torres.
After the lecture, enjoy a morning visit to the Biennial exhibits.
Visit a community project called Artecorte, run by Gilberto Valladares (Papito), who has collected hairdressing artifacts and now displays them in a sort of “interactive museum.” Enjoy lunch in this community at a newly opened paladar called El Figaro.
Afternoon visit to the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes accompanied by curator Lucila Fernandez.
End the day with a studio visit to Cuban sculptor, Yoan Capote.
Early evening reception at the Ludwig Foundation. The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC) is an autonomous, non-governmental and non-profit institution in Cuba created to protect and promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture, develop research works and new technologies applied to the artistic field, and encourage dialog with both Cuban and international cultural communities. B,L,D.

Sunday, May 24
HAVANA
Morning discussion on US/Cuban relations to be led by Professor Raul Rodriquez from the University of Havana.
After the discussion, drive to the home of noted photographer Figueroa and his wife Cristina Vives, a well-known Cuban art critic and dealer. Figueroa will talk to the group about his work and Cristina will talk about contemporary Cuban art and will show the pieces she has in her home.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L ester Tomé
Assistant Prof. Lester Tomé, a native of Cuba, teaches courses on dance history and Latin American culture at Smith College and for the Five College Dance Department. Additionally, he is at work on a book manuscript that chronicles the development of the National Ballet of Cuba as an expression of both the cultural production of the Cuban Revolution and the internationalization of ballet. This project has been sponsored through a two-year residency at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, where he is currently a visiting scholar.
Throughout 2014-15, Tomé is a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been interviewed for NPR’s Weekend Edition and invited to give talks at Columbia University, Harvard University, Haverford College and the Korean Society of Dance, in Seoul. His articles, in English and Spanish, have appeared in books, journals, magazines and newspapers in the US, Cuba, Chile, Spain and South Korea.

Photo by Joshi Radin
After lunch at El Ajibe, enjoy an afternoon of visiting the Biennial exhibits.

This evening, enjoy dinner at the privately operated L’Atelier restaurant. B,L,D.

Monday, May 25
HAVANA
Enjoy a morning briefing at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

Continue on to watch a dance rehearsal of the Danza Contemporanea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rippling spines and head rolls of traditional or folkloric, Afro-Cuban dance; the complex rhythms of Cuban rumba; and the twirling hands and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

Private lunch at the home and studio of artist Jose Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art. Fuster is an artist who is dedicated to his creations, a vast array of artwork from ceramics evoking the nation’s African roots, as represented in the Santeria religion, to whimsical paintings drawn from ordinary life in Cuba. Drive through his neighborhood known as Jaimanitas before arriving at his studio and home for lunch.

After lunch visit to the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA). Continue on to the 331 ArtSpace studio to view the works of three young and emerging artists - Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mujica and Alex Hernandez.

Enjoy dinner in the home of curator Milagros Borges Gomez. Enjoy her lovely home and admire the art the works of many different Cuban artists including Kunta, Ruben Rodriguez, Salvador Corratgé and Orestes Hernandez. B,L,D.

Tuesday, May 26
HAVANA
Depart for a full day excursion to the west part of Cuba, with its jungle-covered summits dropping down limestone cliffs to verdant valleys.

Stop at the Orchid Farm at Soroa, which is maintained by the University of Pinar del Rio. The hilly grounds contain over 800 species of plants, including 200 endemic to Cuba, all thriving in the humid climate.

Continue by a smaller road to the Valle de Vinales to admire Cuba’s most famous landscape, located in the province of Pinar del Rio. This area was the last refuge of the Ciboney, the hunter-gatherers who were pushed here by the more advanced Taino.

Stop at a tobacco farm to learn more about this industry so important to Cuba.

Enjoy lunch at a private farm with beautiful views overlooking the valley.

Return to Havana to visit a gallery that is part of the Biennial before enjoying dinner at leisure this evening. B,L.

Wednesday, May 27
HAVANA
This morning, enjoy a round-table discussion with Dr. Renae Perez, formerly with the Ministry of Agriculture and an advisor to the Ministry of Sugar. Dr. Perez’s discussion, documented with slides, which will address “Living in Cuba Today”.

Enjoy a Biennial exhibit visit before continuing on to an urban garden, La Finca Yoandra, an urban garden and enjoy lunch at the garden’s newly opened restaurant.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at a newly opened restaurant attached to the urban garden.

After lunch, visit Ernest Hemingway’s home which has been lovingly preserved and recently restored by the Cuban government. Enjoy a farewell dinner at La Guarida. This well-known restaurant served as the setting for the main apartment in the film Fresa y Chocolate. B,L,D.

Thursday, May 28
RETURN
Depart for a return flight to Miami. B.

Trip Price: $4,640 per person
Single room supplement: $870

Trip price includes roundtrip airfare on charter flights from Miami to Cuba, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, one drink is included with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons escort and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all gratuities, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation.

Tour cost does not include domestic airfare to and from Miami. Cuban departure tax of $30. Beverages outside of one drink at mealtimes. Trip cancellation, lost baggage or medical insurance (above a mandatory amount required by the Cuban government.) Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed.

For more information or a more detailed itinerary, contact Elizabeth Bigwood at (800) 225-2029 or via email at alumtrav@smith.edu
CUBA: Celebrating Havana’s 12th Biennial
May 21-28, 2015

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for Cuba: Celebrating Havana’s 12th Biennial
Enclosed is a deposit of $600 per person, in the total amount of $____________. Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a $250 administration fee. Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Room Arrangements
☐ Single Occupancy (Single supplement $870)  ☐ Double Occupancy, I will share a room with:_____________________
☐ I would prefer a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one is not available

Personal Information
Last Name_____________________________ First Name_____________________________
Address_______________________________ City, State, Zip__________________________
Daytime phone (_____ )___________________ Email Address_________________________

Send reservation and deposit made payable to Distant Horizons to:
Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063

RESERVATION FORM

Smith College’s tour operator, Distant Horizons, is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at tcrcinfo.org. California Law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. Distant Horizons has a trust account.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payments: Reservations for this tour require a non-refundable deposit of $600 per person and an application form signed by the participant. Full balance of the trip cost is due upon receipt of invoice no later 60 days prior to departure.

Tour Price Includes: Educational Program of lectures and discussions, roundtrip airfare on charter flights between Miami and Cuba, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, one drink with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all basic gratuities, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation.

Visas: Distant Horizons will issue the necessary Cuban visa for all non-Cuban born tour participants. Distant Horizons cannot be held responsible in any way for any cost incurred if they are denied entry into the country upon arrival even with a valid visa. It is the traveler’s responsibility to verify that all details of their visa are correct.

Tour Price Does Not Include: Domestic airfare to and from Miami, Miami hotel, meals not specified in the itinerary; personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls, liquor, room service, independent and private transfers, departure tax of 25 CUCs in Cuba, and excess luggage charges. Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. Airfare is subject to change without notice by the airlines.

Cancellations: If a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons: Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a $250 cancellation fee. Notice between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price. No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date. No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Air Carriers Contract: The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time tour members are on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airline concerned when the ticket is issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger.

Responsibility: Distant Horizons and Smith College act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor Smith College nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and Smith College cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and Smith College cannot be held responsible if the tour lecturer or leader cancels, and passengers will be advised of a comparable replacement should time permit. Distant Horizons and Smith College are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.