

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra *Untitled*, n.d., Oil on canvas

Teacher's Guide

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### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

### Introduction

Cuba is a beautiful land with a rich cultural heritage. Located only 95 miles south of the United States, this long, narrow island is bordered by the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Peninsulas, bays and coastal reefs create more than 280 natural beaches and a shoreline that stretches for 3,400 miles. There are over 6,000 plant species in Cuba, including the royal palm, the silk cotton tree, and the butterfly jasmine, which is the island's national flower. Much of the animal kingdom is reptilian, with many crocodiles, iguanas, lizards, snakes and turtles. The largest land mammal is the jutía, a tree rat that can reach almost two feet in length. The smallest bird in the world, the bee hummingbird, is native to Cuba and is only slightly larger than a grasshopper.

Western Cuba is home to the wooded mountain slopes of the Sierra del Rosario with its tropical rainforests and mixed vegetation, and the Sierra de los Órganos, including the Viñales Valley, notable for its limestone landscape of sheer hills, many of which contain large caverns.

Flat, fertile land dominates central Cuba, ideal for breeding cattle and for growing tobacco, food crops and sugar cane. A few mountain formations also dot this landform, including the Sierra del Escambray.

The Oriente region in eastern Cuba produces a substantial amount of sugar cane, making the area indispensable to the national economy. Oriente possesses the largest mountain range on the island, the Sierra Maestra, 155 miles long and 19 miles wide, which draws many tourists who enjoy its spectacular scenery.

Long before contemporary visitors gazed at the wonders of Cuba's landscape, evidence found by archaeologists suggests that settlers inhabited the island for at least 10,000 years. Approximately 100,000 indigenous inhabitants lived in Cuba at the time of Christopher Columbus' arrival in 1492.

Other explorers came to Cuba in the years following the Columbus expedition. Diego Velázquez, his head filled with visions of Cuban gold, landed in 1510 with a force of 300 men. During this period and afterward, the Spanish founded towns and developed the *encomiendas*, or plantation system, run in large part with native labor. Eventually, the number of Cuba's indigenous inhabitants decreased rapidly as a result of intermarriage, epidemics and poor treatment.

The face of Cuba changed dramatically during subsequent centuries. Havana became a bustling Spanish Caribbean port, beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Over time, the African slave trade boomed and the colony evolved into a major producer of sugar, tobacco and coffee. Wars were fought for Cuba's independence, which was finally gained in 1902, ushering in a new era of growth for the island. The U.S. briefly held Cuba as a territory in the wake of the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Cubans enjoy a wide variety of arts as part of their European, African and Asian cultural heritage. There is a film industry as well as many art schools, theaters and museums. Spanish and African influences have gradually shaped Cuba's culture by bringing ritual dances, Spanish guitars and melodies to the island. This harmonious combination helped dances like the *rumba*, *son*, *danzón*, *punto guajiro*, and *zapateo cubano* to develop. The Afro-Cuban *Santería* religion also inspired the creation of many contemporary Cuban dances. Cuba's African heritage is featured in an annual celebration called Carnaval. This festival stems from the Yoruban custom of praising the saints through song, and for several days the streets of Santiago in Oriente province are filled with dances, processions and music.

Cuba has produced poets and novelists since the 17th century. Literature is popular today and Cuban authors have won prestigious awards including the Casa de las Americas and Cervantes prizes. Street vendors in Havana sell popular novels as well as antique books. Art has been a part of Cuban culture for centuries. Paintings have been found in pre-Columbian caves, while religious works became a focal point after the Spanish conquest. Cuban art gradually evolved into a series of movements, sometimes mirroring outside trends but always reflecting the unique Cuban spirit.

Educators can make use of the entire volume of this Teacher's Guide or only a part of it. Nearly 200 host museums around the country have commented on the positive role of these "guides" in promoting museum education and enhancing the experience of visiting teachers and students. The current guide was designed to promote not only a love of art and visual literacy, but also to expose young people to Cuban culture and its rich traditions.

Students also are introduced to the geography and culture of Cuba through a series of worksheets. A variety of fun facts and questions are included to spark gallery discussions, accompanied by a simple map of Cuba and its boundaries, vocabulary words, and the fundamentals of *rumba* dance and music—all intended to enhance the museum visit and bring Cuba to life. Students are encouraged to use logic and observation skills by answering questions about the artworks to discover similarities and differences between their own lives and those of people living in this neighboring country that is little understood by most Americans.

### Name:

### **Cuba Oriente: Contemporary Painting From Eastern Cuba**

### **Artists**

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Miguel Angel Botalín Joherms Quiala Brooks Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño

Antonio Ferrer Cabello

Marcos Pavón Estrada

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra

Eddy Ochoa Guzmán

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias

Roel Caboverde Llacer

Levis Galano Londres

Orlando Piedra

Jorge Luis Hernández Pouyú

José Julián Aguilera Vicente

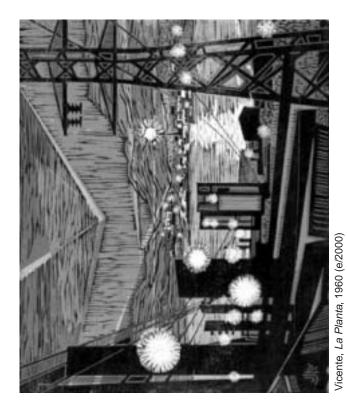
Worksheet 1: Cuba Background

Worksheet 2: Sugar Cane

Worksheet 3: Dance and Music

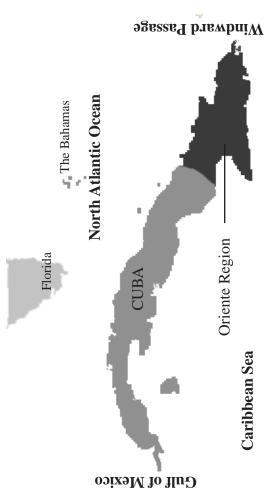
Worksheet 4: Flora and Fauna

Worksheet 5: Carnaval



# Worksheet 1: Cuba Background

## Map and Boundaries



Cayman Islands (U.K.)

Haiti

-Cuba includes two principal islands, Cuba and Isla de la Juventud, and over 1,600 small islets and cays. It is the largest island in the Caribbean.

-Cuba is located between the North American and South American continents.

-The eastern region of Cuba is called "Oriente".

Which paintings tell us about the landscape and geography of Cuba?

How is it similiar to your part of the country? How is it different?

### Did you know?

- Christopher Columbus, traveling from Spain, landed in Cuba in 1492. At first, he thought he had reached the continent of Asia.
- Cuba is the 15th largest island in the world. Its capital and principal city is Havana.
- Cuba is mostly made up of flatlands, with notable mountain ranges, especially in the southeast.
- Its major ethnic groups originated mostly in Africa, Asia and Europe. Cuba is an extraordinarily multi-ethnic society.
- Cuba has a small Indian community, primarily located in Oriente, and made up of Taino people related to those living in Puerto Rico.

**Cuba Oriente: Contemporary Painting From Eastern Cuba** 

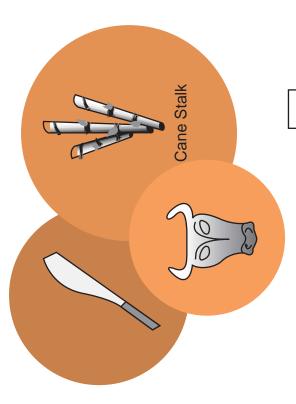
- The second largest city is Santiago de Cuba, located in the Oriente region. This area has five provinces: Las Tunas, Granma, Guantánamo, Holguín and Santiago.

What do the artworks tell us about the kind of people who live in Cuba? Please share examples.

Do any of the artworks tell us about the climate in Cuba? Plants, animals and people's clothing are useful hints.

# Worksheet 2: Sugar Cane Artwork Treasure Hunt

Search for paintings that include the following clues:



How many paintings did you find?

Name the artists and the titles of the paintings.

## Spanish Vocabulary:

Guarapo: Sugar cane juice

Machete: A long hacking knife Machetero or cañero: Sugar cane cutter

Zafra: Harvest

### Did you know?

- In 2002 Cuba was the 10th largest producer of sugar cane in the world.
- Sugar cane grows up to 16 feet tall. The lower part of its stem has the highest sugar content.
- Sugar cane is an agricultural grass or cereal. Other such cereals include rice and wheat.
- Cuba's Carnaval is similar to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It takes place in late July and early August to celebrate the end of the sugar harvest season.

# Harvest Tools and Clothing:

What tools and clothing does the 'machetero' or 'cañero' use to harvest sugar cane? Answer this question after looking at the paintings. Have you ever harvested before? What tools would you use? Would farm animals or machines be useful?

### Hats in Paintings

How many hats can you find in the artworks?
 Do you have a favorite? If so, why?

# Worksheet 3: Dance and Music

### "Rumba"

'Rumba" = A Cuban dance or music with African and Spanish influences.

# There are three types of Cuban Rumba:

### - Yambú:

Slow tempo, simple dance with no hip movement: An old people's dance or one that imitates old age.

### - Guaguancó:

Moderate to fast rhythm with hip movement: A modern, urban style in which couples dance apart; a courtship dance.

### Columbia

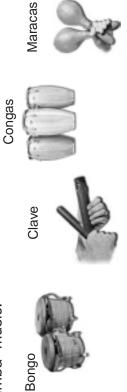
Quick tempo with complex acrobatic movement: Often a solo male dancer imitates cane cutters, ball players and others, suggesting strength, flexibility and bravery.

# Dance in Exhibition Artwork

In the paintings by the artist Antonio Ferrer Cabello, La Rumba series, what style of "Rumba" do you think is portrayed in the artworks? Why?

## **Musical Instruments**

Here are some of the instruments that are used to play "Rumba" music.

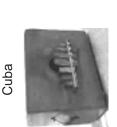


Other instruments include:

Guitar, double bass, marimbula, and the human voice.

# Rumba Box and Thumb Piano

The origin of the Cuban rumba box is the African thumb piano. It is played by stroking metal keys that are fixed to a hardwood soundboard.



Rumba Box or Marimbula or Marimba



Thumb Piano or Kalimba or Mbira

# **Musical Instruments in Exhibition Artworks**

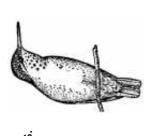
Name the musical instruments in the paintings.
Which ones are traditionally used to play the rumba?
How does the Rumba compare to dances and music you like?

# Worksheet 4: Flora and Fauna

Cuba has more than 6,000 plant species, some dating to prehistoric times. There are over 350 bird species. Among the land fauna, reptiles are the most abundant. These include iguanas, salamanders, crocodiles, lizards, snakes (15 non-poisonous species) and turtles. Fiber from the 25 meter tall Guana tree, known only in Cuba, is used to weave hats, some of which are seen in the exhibition artworks.

# National Flora and Fauna

- Cuba has more than 30 kinds of Palm trees. The national tree is the royal palm.
  - Butterfly Jasmine is the national flower.
- The world's smallest bird, the "Zunzuncito" or Bee Hummingbird (just larger than a grasshopper!), is the national bird.



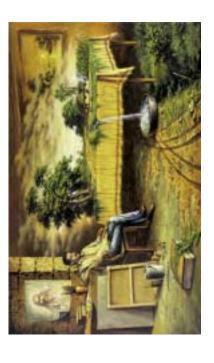
## The Cuba Landscape

The Cuba Landscape includes tropical rainforests, pine forests, savannas\*, mangrove swamps\*, mountain ranges, beaches and coral reefs. Plant and animal species vary greatly from place to place. Sugar cane, tobacco, maize and food crops are grown on the most fertile lands. Cuba has mangos, papayas and bananas (\* see glossary)

How do these landscapes and crops compare to your region?

What kinds of animals and plants are found where you live?

Are there animals in the United States that don't live in Cuba?



Artist

Litle

This artist uses both realism\* and surrealism\* to create his work. What do these terms mean (\*see glossary)? How does he depict the Cuban landscape to express his feelings?

How would you make a surrealistic painting of your local landscape?

Look at the paintings *Rabena-Manzanillo* (Guerra), *Forced Landing* (Brooks), and *Untitled* (Cedeno). Choose one and describe the landscape they portray.

Describe the landscape painting you like the most. Why is this your favorite?

### Cub

### **Cuba Oriente: Contemporary Painting From Eastern Cuba**

Look at the paintings that represent music and celebration.

What kinds of emotions do you think the artists wanted to

express when they used such colors?

Carnaval is a summer celebration throughout Cuba and is especially popular in the city of Santiago. Carnaval derives its origins from the African custom of praising the saints through song. It is one of the country's oldest traditions, dating back centuries. People gather to sing, dance, eat and listen to Rumba and conga beats as musicians and singers parade through the streets in colorful costumes. An entire day is dedicated to children, who watch clowns perform, eat their fill of candy and see amazing magical tricks.

Worksheet 5: Carnaval

# Other festivals in Santiago de Cuba

# - Caribbean Cultural Festival or Fire Festival

This takes place during the first week of July and includes concerts, cultural workshops and artistic performances.

### Rumba Festival

This occurs during mid-January and is celebrated with music and street dancing.

## - International Son Festival

Every two years the nightclubs, plazas and theaters are filled with musicians playing Cuba's Son music.

Which characteristics of public celebration do you see in

Do you have any festivals where you live? How is Carnaval similiar or different to these?

celebrate?

How is music involved during festivals and holidays in the

United States?

Are there traditions from other parts of the world that you



Antonio Ferrer Cabello La Rumba, 1997 Oil on canvas

these paintings?

Do you think Cubans prefer to attend festivals and events by themselves or to go with people from their community?

Why?

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

### In Class Activities

### "Water" Color

A mess-free, inventive way to make watercolor artwork.

Materials needed by students:

- 1 piece of white paper, standard letter size or larger; many ripped pieces of tissue paper in various colors;
- · 1 paintbrush
- water



**Ávila,** *Arte Cubano*, n.d. Watercolor on paper

Arrange the tissue paper pieces on white paper in a pattern you like. "Paint" over the pieces with a paintbrush dipped in water, thoroughly soaking the tissue paper. When the paper is completely dry, you should peel off the tissue paper pieces. The dye from the tissue paper has soaked into the white paper, "creating" a work of art as colorful as a *Cuba Oriente* painting!

### Rumba Drum-ba

Make your own Rumba drum.

Materials needed by students:

- · 1 empty coffee can with a plastic lid
- · 1 paintbrush
- · paint
- · 2 sticks
- · Tacky glue (durable glue used to attach items like beads)
- · beads, sequins, yarn, feathers, etc.

Place the lid on the open end of the coffee can (this will become your drum surface) and paint the can with colors of your choice. When the paint is completely dry, glue your decorations to the can – choosing the most creative pattern possible. After the glue dries, bang out a Rumba beat on your new drum!

### Rain Stick

Hear the mimicked sound of the rain failing in Cuba's beautiful rainforests! Materials needed by students:

- · 1 (1.5 inches) mailing tube or wrapping paper tube
- · wide tape
- sea shells, lentils, gravel (small granules), sand, dried beans, popcorn kernels, or rice
- · 1 funnel
- · magic markers or wrapping paper

Close one end of tube with the wide tape. Pour in sea shells and other contents (above) until the tube is filled with roughly one quarter inch of space left at the top. Close other end of tube with tape. Use your imagination to creatively decorate the outside of the tube with either magic markers or wrapping paper.

### Natural Landscape

Use natural objects and mixed media to create a textured Cuban landscape painting.

Materials needed by students:

- · leaves, bark, grass, feathers, pine needles, and other natural objects
- · glue
- · 1 paintbrush
- · pastels, paints, crayons, or markers
- Draw or paint a Cuban landscape (suggestions: mountains, forests, palm trees, whitewashed houses, sugar cane fields, ocean, etc.; use the illustrated list of exhibition artworks for inspiration). When your drawing is finished or the paper is dry, glue the natural objects to the paper. For example, bark can become part of the trees or be made to look like mountains. You also may want to include animals native to Cuba, like the bee hummingbird or the remarkable jutía.

### Make a Cuba Map

Using the Internet or a Geographical Atlas, look up Cuba, draw a map of the country, and find the hometowns of 5 of the artists in *Cuba Oriente*. This should then be linked to a travel brochure, telling your readers why they should visit these towns and what they will find there. Since you now know about geography, you also can tell your readers what clothes to pack (e.g., cold mountain wear, beach wear, etc.) and things they should be sure to take pictures of.

(activities in part courtesy of: kinderart.com and lessonplanspage.com)



Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Arte Cubano, n.d. (Cuban Art) Watercolor on paper 22.5"x 19.5"

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Martirios del Alma, 1996 (Martyrs of the Soul) Acrylic on canvas 39.5"x 29.5"



Reinaldo Pagán Ávila El Nido, n.d. (The Nest) Acrylic on paper 26.5"x 21.5"

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Memorias de la Navegación, 1997 (Memories of Sailing) Acrylic on canvas 27"x 23.5"





Reinaldo Pagán Ávila

Emigración – de la serie:

Perfiles Colonizados, 2003
(Emigration – from the series:
Colonized Profiles)

Acrylic on canvas
42.5" x 34.5"

Miguel Angel Botalín Calle Mangachupa, 2000 (Mangachupa Street) Oil on canvas 66.5"x 47"



Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Gitana de Caribe, 2000 (Caribbean Gypsy) Acrylic on canvas 24.5"x 16.5"

Miguel Angel Botalín Catedrales – serie, 2001 (Cathedral – series) Oil on canvas 31.5"x 25.5"



All dimensions are height x width (framed)

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba



Miguel Angel Botalín Untitled, n.d. Oil on canvas 21"x 29"

Joherms Quiala Brooks Éxodo, 2000 (Exodus) Oil on canvas 65"x 32"



Joherms Quiala Brooks
Aché pá tí, mi "Nagüe!", 2000
(My Blessings, Friend!)
Oil on canvas
48.5"x 36.5"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

Fuga a un Sueño

Esperado, 2000

(Flight to a Dream Awaited)

Oil on canvas

21.5"x 16"





Joherms Quiala Brooks Aterrizaje Forzoso, 2001 (Forced Landing) Oil on canvas 39"x 25"

Joherms Quiala Brooks
La Postal que no se Vende,
2002
(The Postcard that is Never
Sold)
Oil on canvas
52.5"x 40.5"



Joherms Quiala Brooks El Día Más Feliz del Mundo, 1999 (The World's Most Joyous Day) Oil on canvas 39.5"x 30"

Joherms Quiala Brooks
Mi Tío, el que Llegó del Norte,
1999
(My Uncle Who Arrived from
the North)
Oil on canvas
21"x 16"



### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba



Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (One of five works),
1997

(Rumba)

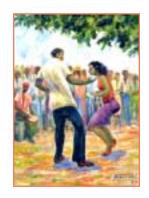
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"

Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (Five of five works),
1997

(Rumba)

Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"





Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (Two of five works), Antonio Ferrer Cabello
1997

(Rumba)

Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"

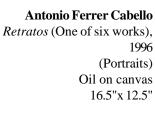
Antonio Ferrer Cabello
La Zafra, 1995
(The Sugar Harvest)
Oil on canvas
27.5"x 35.5"



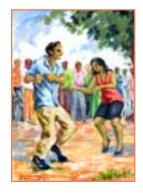


Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (Three of five Rworks), 1997
(Rumba)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"







Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (Four of five works),
1997

(Rumba)

Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"

Antonio Ferrer Cabello
Retratos (Two of six works),
1996
(Portraits)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"



### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba



Antonio Ferrer Cabello Retratos (Three of six works), 1996 (Portraits) Oil on canvas 16.5"x 12.5"

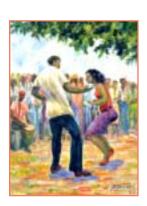
Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño Atardecer Lluvioso, 2001 (Rainy Afternoon) Oil on canvas 43"x 82"



Antonio Ferrer Cabello
Retratos (Four of six works),
1996
(Portraits)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño Día Frio, 1996 (Cold Day) Oil on cardboard 24"x 34.5"





Antonio Ferrer Cabello
Retratos (Five of six works),
1996
(Portraits)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño
En el Reino de Dios Todo es
Posible, 2001
(In the Kingdom of God,
Everything is Possible)
Oil on canvas
42.5"x 66.5"



Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño La Isla, 2001 (The Island) Oil on canvas 39"x 57.5"





Antonio Ferrer Cabello Retratos (Six of six works), 1996 (Portraits) Oil on canvas 16.5"x 12.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño Paisaje con Ruinas, 2002 (Landscape with Ruins) Oil on canvas 38.5"x 66.5"





**Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño** *Untitled*, n.d. Oil on cardboard 21"x 32"

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra La Plazita de Mi Barrio, 1997 (The Little Square in My Neighborhood) Oil on canvas 21"x 30"





Marcos Pavón Estrada Amor Proletario, 1980 (Proletarian Love) Oil on canvas 39"x 30"

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra Rabena-Manzanillo, 2000 Oil on canvas 35.5"x 42.5"





Marcos Pavón Estrada Brujas con Gallo, 1985 (Witches with Rooster) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra

Untitled, n.d.
Oil on canvas
45"x 35"





Marcos Pavón Estrada Reunión de Brujas, 1985 (Witches' Meeting) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"

Eddy Ochoa Guzmán *Untitled*, n.d. Oil on canvas 25.5"x 41"





Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Amanecer en la Ciudad, 2001 (Dawn in the City) Oil on canvas 44.5"x 70.5"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Trovador Viajante, 2001 (Wandering Minstrel) Oil on canvas 70"x 44.5



Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Capitán Furia, 2001 (Captain Fury) Oil on canvas 54"x 37

Roel Caboverde Llacer

Cañeros, 1999

(Cane Cutters)

Oil on canvas

19"x 15"





Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias El Pez Rojo, n.d. (The Red Fish) – Study Oil on board 16"x 13.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer De Regreso a Casa, 1999 (Coming Home) Oil on canvas 33"x 29"



Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias El Pez Rojo, 2000 (The Red Fish) Oil on canvas 31"x 23"

Roel Caboverde Llacer Pescadores, 1998 (Fishermen) Oil on canvas 16.5"x 19.5"





Roel Caboverde Llacer Recolectores de Café, 1999 (Coffee Pickers) Oil on canvas 23.5"x 18.5"

Orlando Piedra La Fuerza del Guajiro, n.d. (The Farmer's Strength) Oil on canvas 40.5"x 25.5"



Roel Caboverde Llacer
Untitled, 1999
Oil on canvas
20"x 17"
Jorge Luis Hernández Pouyú
(Vestigios, 2001
(Vestiges)
Acrylic on paper
32.5"x 43.5"





Levis Galano Londres Guajiro con Gallo, 1998 (Country Man with Rooster) Acrylic on canvas 23.5"x 19.5"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente Homanaje a Lam, 1985 (e/2000) (Homage to Lam) Woodblock print 34"x 22"



Orlando Piedra
Guajiro Joven, n.d.
(Country Boy)
Oil on canvas
24.5"x 19"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente La Lluvia en Santa Lucía, 1967 (e/2000) (Rain in Santa Lucía) Woodblock print 29"x 23"





José Julián Aguilera Vicente La Planta, 1960 (e/2000) (The Plant) Woodblock print 23"x 27



José Julián Aguilera Vicente Mi Ciudad, 1966 (e/2000) (My City) Woodblock print 28.5"x 22.5"



José Julián Aguilera Vicente Salud Maestro, 1975 (e/2003) (For the Teacher) Woodblock print 29"x 17.5"

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

### **List of Artworks by Theme**

### **Imaginary Creatures**

Marcos Pavón Estrada Brujas con Gallo, 1985 (Witches with Rooster) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"

Marcos Pavón Estrada Reunión de Brujas, 1985 (Witches' Meeting) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Capitán Furia, 2001 (Captain Fury) Oil on canvas 54"x 37"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente Salud Maestro, 1975 (e/2003) (For the Teacher) Woodblock print 29"x 17.5"



Estrada, Brujas con Gallo, 1985

### **Hats and Headdresses**

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila *El Nido*, n.d. (The Nest)
Acrylic on paper 26.5"x 21.5"

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila

Emigración – de la serie: Perfiles Colonizados, 2003
(Emigration – from the series: Colonized Profiles)

Acrylic on canvas
42.5" x 34.5"

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Gitana de Caribe, 2000 (Caribbean Gypsy) Acrylic on canvas 24.5"x 16.5"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

Aché pá tí, mi "Nagüe!", 2000
(My Blessings, Friend!)
Oil on canvas
48.5"x 36.5"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

El Día Más Feliz del Mundo, 1999
(The World's Most Joyous Day)
Oil on canvas
39.5"x 30"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

Fuga a un Sueño Esperado, 2000
(Flight to a Dream Awaited)
Oil on canvas
21.5"x 16"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

Mi Tío, el que Llegó del Norte, 1999
(My Uncle Who Arrived from the North)
Oil on canvas
21"x 16"

Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (Series of five), 1997
(Rumba)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5" each



Ávila, Gitana de Caribe, 2000



Brooks, El Día Más Feliz del Mundo, 1999

Antonio Ferrer Cabello La Zafra, 1995 (The Sugar Harvest) Oil on canvas 27.5"x 35.5"

Antonio Ferrer Cabello *Retratos* (Series of six), 1996 (Portraits)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5" each

Marcos Pavón Estrada Amor Proletario, 1980 (Proletarian Love) Oil on canvas 39"x 30"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Capitán Furia, 2001 (Captain Fury) Oil on canvas 54"x 37"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias *El Pez Rojo*, n.d. (The Red Fish) – Study Oil on board 16"x 13.5"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias El Pez Rojo, 2000 (The Red Fish) Oil on canvas 31"x 23"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Trovador Viajante, 2001 (Wandering Minstrel) Oil on canvas 70"x 44.5"



Cabello, Retratos, 1996



Cabello, Retratos, 1996

Roel Caboverde Llacer *Cañeros*, 1999 (Cane Cutters)
Oil on canvas
19"x 15"

Roel Caboverde Llacer De Regreso a Casa, 1999 (Coming Home) Oil on canvas 33"x 29"

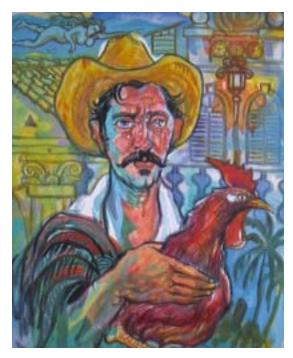
Roel Caboverde Llacer *Pescadores,* 1998 (Fishermen) Oil on canvas 16.5"x 19.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer Recolectores de Café, 1999 (Coffee Pickers) Oil on canvas 23.5"x 18.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer *Untitled,* 1999 Oil on canvas 20"x 17"

Levis Galano Londres Guajiro con Gallo, 1998 (Country Man with Rooster) Acrylic on canvas 23.5"x 19.5"

Orlando Piedra *Guajiro Joven*, n.d. (Country Boy)
Oil on canvas
24.5"x 19"



Londres, Guajiro con Gallo, 1998



Piedra, La Fuerza del Guajiro, n.d.

Orlando Piedra

La Fuerza del Guajiro, n.d.
(The Farmer's Strength)
Oil on canvas
40.5"x 25.5"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente Salud Maestro, 1975 (e/2003) (For the Teacher) Woodblock print 29"x 17.5"

### **Images of the Countryside**

Joherms Quiala Brooks Aterrizaje Forzoso, 2001 (Forced Landing) Oil on canvas 39"x 25"

Joherms Quiala Brooks Éxodo, 2000 (Exodus) Oil on canvas 65"x 32"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

Fuga a un Sueño Esperado, 2000
(Flight to a Dream Awaited)
Oil on canvas
21.5"x 16"

Joherms Quiala Brooks

La Postal que no se Vende, 2002

(The Postcard that is Never Sold)

Oil on canvas
52.5"x 40.5"



Brooks, Éxodo, 2000

Antonio Ferrer Cabello *La Zafra*, 1995 (The Sugar Harvest) Oil on canvas 27.5"x 35.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño Atardecer Lluvioso, 2001 (Rainy Afternoon) Oil on canvas 43"x 82"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño *Día Frio,* 1996 (Cold Day) Oil on cardboard 24"x 34.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño La Isla, 2001 (The Island) Oil on canvas 39"x 57.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño Paisaje con Ruinas, 2002 (Landscape with Ruins) Oil on canvas 38.5"x 66.5"

Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño *Untitled,* n.d. Oil on cardboard 21"x 32"

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra *La Plazita de Mi Barrio*, 1997
(The Little Square in My Neighborhood)
Oil on canvas
21"x 30"



Cedeño, Día Frio, 1996

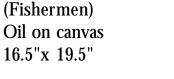


Cedeño, Atardecer Lluvioso, 2001

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra Rabena-Manzanillo, 2000 Oil on canvas 35.5"x 42.5"

Eddy Ochoa Guzmán Untitled. n.d. Oil on canvas 25.5"x 41"

Roel Caboverde Llacer Pescadores, 1998 (Fishermen) Oil on canvas



### **Cityscapes**

Miguel Angel Botalín Calle Mangachupa, 2000 (Mangachupa Street) Oil on canvas 66.5"x 47"

Miguel Angel Botalín Catedrales – serie, 2001 (Cathedral – series) Oil on canvas 31.5"x 25.5"

Miguel Angel Botalín Untitled. n.d. Oil on canvas 21"x 29"

Joherms Quiala Brooks Mi Tío, el que Llegó del Norte, 1999 (My Uncle Who Arrived from the North) Oil on canvas 21"x 16"



Guerra, Rabena-Manzanillo, 2000



Botalín, Calle Mangachupa, 2000

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra *Untitled*, n.d.
Oil on canvas
45"x 35"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Capitán Furia, 2001 (Captain Fury) Oil on canvas 54"x 37"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente La Lluvia en Santa Lucía, 1967 (e/2000) (Rain in Santa Lucía) Woodblock print 29"x 23"

José Julián Aguilera Vicente La Planta, 1960 (e/2000) (The Plant) Woodblock print 23"x 27"

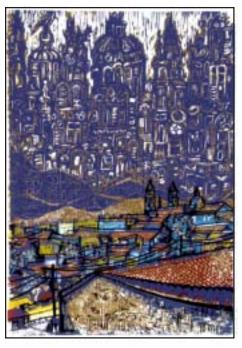
José Julián Aguilera Vicente *Mi Ciudad,* 1966 (e/2000) (My City) Woodblock print 28.5"x 22.5

### **Musical Instruments**

Antonio Ferrer Cabello

La Rumba (three of five works), 1997
(Rumba)
Oil on canvas
16.5"x 12.5" each

Marcos Pavón Estrada Reunión de Brujas, 1985 (Witches' Meeting) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"



Vicente, Mi Ciudad, 1966 (e/2000)



Cabello, La Rumba, 1997

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Amanecer en la Ciudad, 2001 (Dawn in the City) Oil on canvas 44.5"x 70.5"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias *El Pez Rojo*, n.d. (The Red Fish) – Study Oil on board 16"x 13.5"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias El Pez Rojo, 2000 (The Red Fish) Oil on canvas 31"x 23"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Trovador Viajante, 2001 (Wandering Minstrel) Oil on canvas 70"x 44.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer *Untitled*, 1999 Oil on canvas 20"x 17"

### **Sugar Cane**

Antonio Ferrer Cabello *La Zafra*, 1995 (The Sugar Harvest) Oil on canvas 27.5"x 35.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer Cañeros, 1999 (Cane Cutters) Oil on canvas 19"x 15"



Iglesias, Trovador Viajante, 2001



Llacer, Cañeros, 1999

### **Animals**

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila *El Nido,* n.d. (The Nest) Acrylic on paper 26.5"x 21.5"

Reinaldo Pagán Ávila Gitana de Caribe, 2000 (Caribbean Gypsy) Acrylic on canvas 24.5"x 16.5"

Antonio Ferrer Cabello La Zafra, 1995 (The Sugar Harvest) Oil on canvas 27.5"x 35.5"

Marcos Pavón Estrada Brujas con Gallo, 1985 (Witches with Rooster) Oil on canvas 37"x 25"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias *El Pez Rojo*, n.d. (The Red Fish) – Study Oil on board 16"x 13.5"

Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias El Pez Rojo, 2000 (The Red Fish) Oil on canvas 31"x 23"



Ávila, El Nido, n.d.



Cabello, La Zafra, 1995

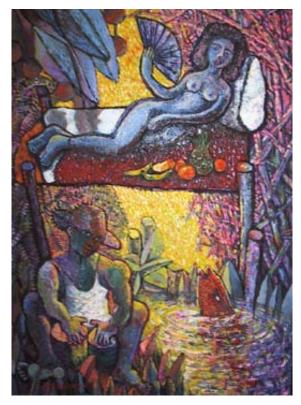
Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias Trovador Viajante, 2001 (Wandering Minstrel) Oil on canvas 70"x 44.5"

Roel Caboverde Llacer De Regreso a Casa, 1999 (Coming Home) Oil on canvas 33"x 29"

Levis Galano Londres Guajiro con Gallo, 1998 (Country Man with Rooster) Acrylic on canvas 23.5"x 19.5"

Orlando Piedra

La Fuerza del Guajiro, n.d.
(The Farmer's Strength)
Oil on canvas
40.5"x 25.5"



Iglesias, El Pez Rojo, 2000

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

### **Artist Biographies**

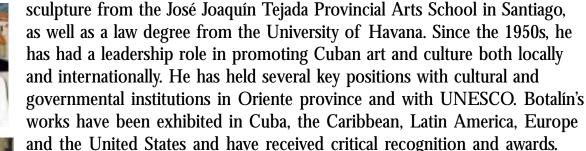
Reinaldo Pagán Ávila (Santiago de Cuba, 1971) graduated from the José Joaquín Tejada Provincial Arts School with a degree in drawing and painting and credentials as an art instructor. In 1991, he began working as part of a team whose purpose was to beautify Santiago, and the same year he and other young artists for med a group called "Cara Joven" (Young Faces). Known by their nickname "Cara-jo," this group would change the local art scene by introducing innovative ideas and expressing ecological concerns. At the 1992 Caribbean Festival, Ávila participated in a street installation called "Showcase Art," in which artists' works were created in store windows. His first one-man show, "My Double Face," took place in 1995, touring Guantánamo and Granma provinces. Ávila has received numerous national awards for his works.





Memorias de la Navegación, 1997

Miguel Angel Botalín (Santiago de Cuba, 1932) received degrees in painting and



de Cuba and works independently as a visual artist.



Catedrales - serie, 2001

**Joherms Quiala Brooks** (Guantánamo, 1970) is a gifted artist whose works evoke an admiration for Salvador Dali, but with Brooks' own unique Cuban style. His colors are

They can be found in collections worldwide. He currently lives in Santiago

brilliant and beautiful, violent and sensual. His energetic characters exhibit strength, humor, and refreshing openness; his use of sun and light often



result in translucent background colors of vivid blues, greens and yellows. He has participated in one-man and group exhibitions both in his country and abroad. He won first prize at the International Festival of Humor in Belgium. One of his paintings was presented to the Pope as a gift for the Vatican Art Collection.

Aterrizaje Forzoso, 2001

**Antonio Ferrer Cabello** (Santiago de Cuba, 1913) is a graduate of the San Alejandro





Retratos, 1996

Academy of Fine Art in Havana. He returned to Santiago to serve as a professor at the José Joaquín Tejada Provincial Arts School. He also was director of the Bacardí Museum in Santiago. Cabello produces drawings, watercolors, pastels, and engravings, but his most outstanding works are portraits and paintings of urban landscapes. He was able to bring avantgarde trends to Santiago and has promoted contacts with artists in Havana and outside the country. He has also encouraged similar developments in theater and music. During the 1960s, Cabello created innovative portraits of musicians with fluid, agile and luminous backgrounds and gestures. He has received numerous medals for his contributions to art and culture in Cuba.

**Alfredo Rodríguez Cedeño** (Bayamo, 1969) is essentially self-taught, but took several classes at a community cultural center and received some instruction at the Manuel del Socorro Rodríguez Visual Arts School in Bayamo. Many of his works focus

on rural landscapes and portray the habits and daily life of Cuban *campesinos*. Cedeño's paintings often emphasize environmental themes, combining traditional approaches with realism. He has participated in the Cucalambé Festivals in Las Tunas. At age 30, he has had four one-man shows and numerous group exhibitions and has been awarded municipal, provincial and national prizes. In 1999, he headed a collective show

entitled "The Cuban Phenomenon" at the Asheville Gallery in North Carolina. Cedeño creates paintings, drawings, engravings and ceramics. He currently lives and works as an independent artist in





En el Reino de Dios Todo es Posible, 2001

**Marcos Pavón Estrada** (Holguín, 1938) is disabled and unable to use his hands, but from an early age decided to paint. In 1963, he was admitted to the Frank País Hospital in



Havana where he received formal training in the arts. Upon his return to his region of Holguín, he enrolled in the Fine Arts School, graduated in 1969, and

began working at the Manuel Dositeo Aguilera Cultural Center. In 1985 he started painting elves and witches from local mythology to revive rural folk imagery and traditions. Estrada belongs to the

Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists in Liechtenstein and has created a special device to facilitate the upward and downward movement of his easel.

Reunión de Brujas 1985

Ruben Manuel Beltrán Guerra (Manzanillo, 1966) is a self-taught artist. Despite his

limited formal training, he is an avid student of nature, observing its differ-



ent colors and capturing landscapes and cityscapes on his canvases. For Guerra, painting is a demonstration of the love he feels for God, man, and nature. He says, "The sketch is like a newborn . . . I nurture it, raise it



La Plazita de Mi Barrio, 1997

until it grows and becomes an adult . . . the finished work of art."

Eddy Ochoa Guzmán (Guantánamo, 1952) is a painter, a composer of children's music, and a policeman whose speciality is criminology. He graduated from the Pinar del Río Provincial Arts School and studied for two years at the José Joaquín Tejada Provincial Arts School in Santiago de Cuba. Guzmán has participated in numerous collective and one-man shows. He has received several awards for his activities as a painter and a composer. These include Best Composition for Children and the Popularity Prize at the Singing to the Sun National Festival in Havana.



Alfredo Elías Sánchez Iglesias (Santiago de Cuba, 1967) is a painter, a teacher, and a



theater designer. At the age of fourteen, he graduated from the José Joaquín Tejada Provincial Arts School with a degree in drawing and engraving. Soon afterward, he began teaching there. As a student he was encouraged to study the masters and chose Picasso and Chagall. His teacher, José Aguilera Vicente, became a mentor. The works of Cuban artist Fidelio Ponce de León also provided inspiration. Iglesias

studied theater design in Russia, returning to Cuba in 1995. His work in theater continues to have a profound impact on his painting.



Trovador Viajante, 2001

Roel Caboverde Llacer (Baracoa, 1947) first worked as a graphic designer and spent his



free time painting and fishing. By 1970, as his artworks became better known, he held his first one-man show in Moa. In 1983 he began studying at Guantánamo's School of Fine Art, graduating as a visual arts instructor. Currently he paints in a neocubist style, depicting childhood memories of rural fishing and sugar harvest scenes. Llacer recently attracted inter-

national attention resulting in one-man shows in Spain, France and the United States. He lives and teaches in the coastal village of Baracoa.



Cañeros, 1999

**Levis Galano Londres** (Cayo Guin) studied art in Guantánamo, receiving a diploma in art instruction. He has exhibited widely in Cuba and now lives in the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. Many of his works portray the environment and all are characterized by vivid colors and free brushwork.



Guajiro con Gallo, 1998

**Orlando Piedra** (Baracoa, 1954) is a painter, a caricaturist, a book illustrator, an actor and an athlete. As a child, he produced caricatures with the encouragement of his grandfather.



His lifelong sense of humor and satire are reflected in his portrait paintings. Piedra's interests in political commentary through art, along with his concern for social issues and the environment, have led to controversies. He has participated in several international competitions and his work has been exhibited in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

Piedra has held numerous one-man exhibitions of his oil paintings, watercolors and caricatures. In 1997, he received the Guamo Award for his outstanding career from the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists.



La Fuerza del Guajiro, n.d.

**Jorge Luis Hernández Pouyú** (Santiago de Cuba, 1967) first studied art at the **José** Joaquín Tejada Provincial Arts School. In 1985, he moved to Havana, where he joined the

Eduardo Abela Experimental Painting Workshop and was involved with the Rene Portocarrero Silkscreen Workshop. In 1988, Pouyú participated in the



Vestigios, 2001

Papermaking Workshop of the 3rd Biennial of Havana. He has been in numerous group shows and held one-man exhibitions, winning prizes at several competitions. Since 1991, he has served as a judge in various regional events. He currently lives and works in his hometown of Santiago de Cuba.



**José Julián Aguilera Vicente** (Santiago de Cuba, 1933) is a painter, a sculptor and a

graphic artist. He has worked as a professional artist and educator at various institutions, including the University of Oriente, teaching drawing, engraving and other subjects. He is affiliated with both local and national arts and cultural institutions. Vicente has won 33 provincial and national awards, participating in

30 international group shows, 11 one-man shows abroad and more than 100 exhibits in Cuba. The largest collection of his works can be found in the Emilio Bacardí Museum in Santiago de Cuba.



Mi Ciudad, 1966 (e/2000)

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

### **Art Glossary**

### Acrylic

A type of paint made from a plastic mixture. Many artists use acrylic because it is strong and adaptable.

### **Brush strokes**

The impressions in paint created when an artist applies a brush to a surface such as canvas or cardboard. Different kinds of brushes create different strokes and these can add to the texture and beauty of an artwork.

### Canvas

Artists paint their pictures on this strong cloth. Canvas often is made from hemp or flax.

### Composition

The way in which an artist organizes the different parts of a picture to create a visually harmonious presentation. All elements in an artwork, such as figures, shapes, and objects, are part of its composition.

### Medium

In general terms, the type of materials used to create an artwork. In this exhibition medium refers primarily to watercolor, acrylic and oil paint.

### **Oil Paint**

Produced by mixing powdered pigments with plant oils. This creates a thick paint that takes a long time to dry.

### Perspective

Drawing objects by having imaginary lines meet at one point ("focus") to give a painting the impression of depth. If one looks carefully at a painting with perspective, some objects seem nearer while others seem farther.

### **Realism**

Type of art that portrays people, places or things as they actually appear.

### **Shading**

The representation of light or shade in a picture. Shading helps define a figure in the third dimension, making it appear to have depth.

### Surrealism

An artistic style that tries to portray subconscious thoughts or feelings, conveyed with strange images and unusual overlapping themes.

### **Texture**

This describes the surface in a drawing or painting. For example, texture can tell you whether a surface is smooth or rough.

### Watercolor

A bright water-based paint often used on paper.

### Woodcut

One of the earliest forms of printmaking in which the design is drawn on wood, with areas not intended to be printed being cut away. The block is then inked and paper is pressed down on the woodblock. Colors can be added by using different blocks or by altering the block and re-inking.

### **Terms You Might Not Know**

### **Boundary**

A line that shows the limits of each country, state, city or other areas.

### Cay

Small, low island made up of mainly of coral or sand.

### **Continent**

One of the earth's seven divisions of land; Asia or South America, for example.

### Mangrove swamp

Wet, low region containing tropical trees with intertwining roots.

### Savanna

Flat grassland found in tropical or subtropical regions.

### **Useful Spanish Terms**

### **Cañeros**

"Cane cutters." One of the ways Cubans can earn money is by selling sugar cane. Workers cut down the cane and factories produce the sugar.

### Guajiro

A person from the Cuban countryside.

### Homanaje

Similar to the English word "homage," suggesting that honor is given to a person, object or place.

### Recolectores de café

"Coffee pickers." Another way Cubans earn money is by selling coffee; like sugar cane, coffee is an important Cuban cash crop.

### Rumba

A type of dance that is extremely popular in Cuba. There are three different styles of Rumba: the Yambú, performed at a slow tempo; the Guaguancó, a combination of singing and theatrical dancing; and the Columbia, a male solo dance that is physically challenging and features many mimed movements.

### **Trovador**

A "minstrel" or a musician who plays an instrument and travels from town to town.

### Contemporary Painting from Eastern Cuba

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AfroCubaWeb

www.afrocubaweb.com

**BBC** 

www.bbc.uk.co

Cuba Heritage

www.cubaheritage.com

Cuban Art – Arte de Cuba

www.cubanart.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

www.fao.org

The Internet Travel Guide – "Getting to Know Cuba"

www.cuba-erleben.de

Links<sup>2</sup>Go Key Resource

www.cwo.com

Lonely Planet World Guide

www.lonelyplanet.com

Mento Music

www.mentomusic.com

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http://www.embacuba.ca/cultturalevents.htm

Rumba

http://www.frommers.com/destinations/santiagodecuba/3175024876.html

Son festival

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