

THE
KENNEDY
CENTER

ARTES DE CUBA

FROM THE ISLAND
TO THE WORLD

MAY 8-20, 2018
THE KENNEDY CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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The Presenting Underwriter of Artes de Cuba
HRH Foundation

Major support is provided by **David M. Rubenstein**.

Additional support is provided by Amalia Perea Mahoney and William Mahoney and The Irene Pollin Audience Development and Community Engagement Initiatives.

International Programming at the Kennedy Center is made possible through the generosity of the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts.

All dates, artists, programs, and prices are subject to change.

Tickets

Available at the Kennedy Center Box Office

Or charge by phone (202) 467-4600

Toll-free (800) 444-1324

Order online at kennedy-center.org/CUBA

Groups call (202) 416-8400

For complete festival information, visit KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG/CUBA

For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

My first trip to Cuba was roughly 20 years ago on a Smithsonian-led program. What a feast to see performances, meet the artists, and experience the unique culture of this country. Researching then for a festival on Latin America, *AmericArtes*, I found the riches of Cuban culture to be extraordinary, so I began to bring artists from the Island for various programs. From that first encounter, I knew one day I wanted to present a festival focused solely on Cuba. Having worked previously for Harry Belafonte, I was exposed to world-class music and musicians from all over the globe, particularly from Africa and the Caribbean including Cuba. I am thrilled that all of the knowledge, influences, and experiences now elide to make *Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World* a reality.

Sound. Movement. Magic. Brilliance. Taste. *Calor*. Experience all the exuberance of Cuban arts and culture on the stages of the Kennedy Center! This unprecedented gathering brings some of the world's greatest artists from the Island and the Diaspora for a two-week celebration featuring 400-plus artists in more than 50 events.

Cuba is host to a *mélange* of cultures—African, European, Caribbean, North and South American—that has shaped Cuban art for half a millennium. A virtual cornucopia of the arts has emerged from this “island archipelago in the sun,” profoundly influencing its people as well as our global culture. There is a strong history here. Cuban and American musicians and dancers have enjoyed cultural connections since the 1800s, creating a hybridization of art forms and styles shared by our two countries.

Such connections were not limited to just “popular” dance forms; they also occurred in classical ballet. The renowned Cuban ballerina Alicia Alonso achieved stardom while performing with American Ballet Theatre in New York. Upon returning to Cuba, she founded a premier ballet company in Havana, Ballet Nacional de Cuba. She nurtured and developed world-class dancers—many would later be invited to join other international companies, forming a deep impression for the excellence of Cuban ballet around the world.

The unique, hyper-vibrant style of Cuba's visual arts is a festival highlight, offering a vision of the diverse visual mosaic that is at the heart of Cuban life. Several artists have created fresh new works especially for the Kennedy Center.

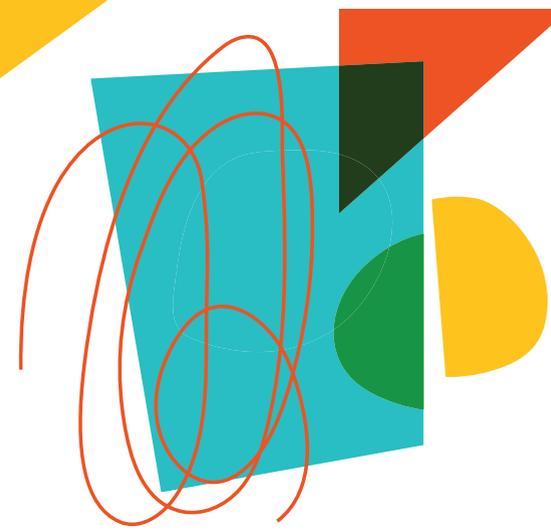
Overall, our festival features music, dance, theater, film, fashion, design, and cuisine. From traditional to contemporary, Cuba is bound to dazzle and delight with the vividness of its artists' imaginations. Showcasing many of Cuba's finest artists and leading Cuban American creators, *Artes de Cuba* encompasses the breadth and vibrancy of one of the most dynamic cultures in the world. Indulge yourself in its abundant pleasures—you will be inspired!

My heartfelt thanks to all who have supported the festival and have helped make it a success. A special thanks to the Cuban Ministry of Culture, the Embassy of Cuba in Washington, and the State Department, especially the U.S. Embassies in Havana and Mexico City.

Alicia B. Adams
Vice President, International Programming and Dance
Festival Curator



Cafedral (2017) by Roberto Fabelo

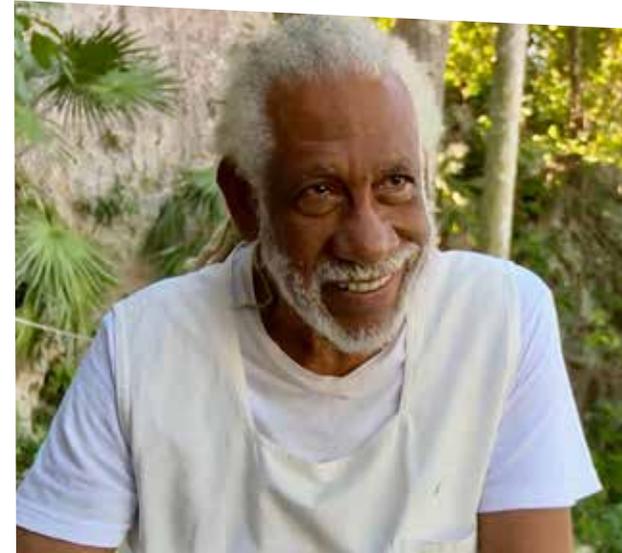


VISUAL ARTS

INSTALLATIONS

The following installations are free, no tickets required. They are open throughout the duration of the festival beginning May 9, from 10 a.m. to building close. (See page 27 for two related documentaries, including a talk with some of the visual artists represented at the festival.)

Manuel Mendive



World premiere



Manuel Mendive
La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre / Nature, Spirit, and Man (2018)
Fragmento de Paisaje / Fragment of a Landscape (2017)

Hall of States

Perhaps the most important Afro-Cuban artist to ever emerge from Cuba, Mendive works across media—including paint, wood, and organic matter—to create art that is strongly influenced by the Santería religion, expressing ways in which African culture has shaped his country's national identity and culture. For *Artes de Cuba*, the works of Mendive reflect his deep love of nature. *Fragmento de Paisaje* is a series of dreamscapes where people, animals, plants, and clouds morph into one another, reflecting his vision of the universe as one. With *La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre*, commissioned for the festival, viewers experience both the inside and outside of various three-dimensional sculptures. One's gaze is inevitably pulled upward, encouraging contemplation of the poetry of nature and its profound relationship with man.

Ticketed event in conjunction with
La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre:

Manuel Mendive in Performance
Special guest musicians **Yosvany Terry, Adonis Gonzalez, and Mauricio Herrera**

May 14 at 8 p.m.
Eisenhower Theater

Don't miss a unique opportunity to watch Mendive exercise his creativity and painting skills on a live section of one of his sculptures, accompanied by musicians and dancers. It's visual arts, music, and dance all integrated into a once-in-a-lifetime performance!



Roberto Fabelo
Mundos / Worlds (2005–2018)
Torres / Towers (2000–2018)
Ronda Infinita / Endless Rounds (2015)
Cafedral (2017)

Hall of Nations

Absurdist Cuban painter, sculptor, and illustrator Roberto Fabelo is a member of “the generation of sure hope” that emerged in the 1980s, credited with reinvigorating the country’s creative environment. He’s the recipient of the prestigious Alejo Carpentier medal, Cuba’s highest honor for artistic achievement. With *Mundos*, accumulations in the shape of the Earth are Fabelo’s commentary on urgent problems facing society today. Stacks of everyday cookware in *Torres* suggest that assuring man’s daily sustenance is a towering achievement. In *Ronda Infinita*, figures walking along the rim of a cauldron evoke man’s ongoing struggle for survival. With *Cafedral*, coffee pots erected into a cathedral position the beverage as a symbol of cultural identity.

U.S. premiere



Roberto Diago
Permanent History (2017)

Atrium

At just 37, Havana-born Roberto Diago has long been one of Cuba’s most critically acclaimed and commercially lauded artists. With a focus on raw subject matter, including deep reflections on race, slavery, and religion, Diago works across media, including paintings, sculptures, and mixed media and found-art installations. For the festival, the celebrated artist will debut his *Permanent History*. This cluster of small, simple houses suggests Marianao, the working-class Havana neighborhood where Roberto Diago grew up. Despite the lingering imprint of their past, says the artist, “communities that have experienced slavery and inequality strive to overcome that legacy and face the present with dignity.”

Roberto Diago, photo by Roberto Chile



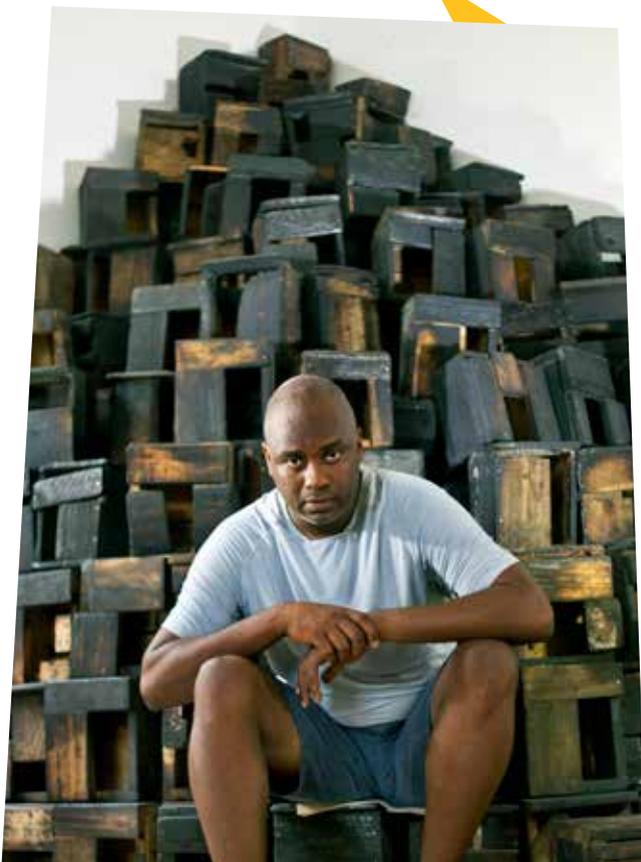
José Parlá's *Nuevo Rumbo*, photo courtesy of Parlá Studios



José Parlá
Poly-Ritmó (Polyrhythm) (2018)

North Atrium Foyer

Born in Miami, Florida, to Cuban immigrants, José Parlá is a critically acclaimed, multidisciplinary artist whose oeuvre spans painting, large-scale murals, photography, video, and sculpture. Among his many public works is a commission by One World Trade Center for his monumental mural painting, *ONE: Union of the Senses*, the largest painting of its kind in New York. For *Artes de Cuba*, the internationally recognized Parlá will present an installation combining sculptural works and two paintings: *Nuevo Rumbo* and *Amistad América*.



World premiere

Emilio Perez
Sombras Silvestres / Wild Shadows (2018)

States Gallery

Created for *Artes de Cuba*, this site-specific, multi-channel video installation is inspired by the rhythms of Cuba and the New York-born, Cuban American painter and muralist’s personal history with the island. Perez’s abstract composition merges photos and artwork he made in Havana with architectural surfaces to create animated paintings set to a score by Andrew Yeomanson, aka Dj Le Spam. In 2016, Perez’s “Dream Season” lit up Times Square for three minutes as part of *Midnight Moment*, the world’s largest digital art exhibition. *Sombras Silvestres* is his second experiment in the genre; he’s primarily known for large-format works combining painting and kinetic lines made with an X-ACTO knife.

Video approximately 6 minutes; screened throughout the day.



Esterio Segura
Hybrid of a Chrysler (2018)

River Terrace (outside)

Cuban-born artist Esterio Segura is a graduate of Havana’s prestigious Instituto Superior de Arte. He uses humorous imagery to address socially and politically charged themes from Cuban history. Different manifestations of winged animals and machines, airplanes, and submarines appear in his work—all symbolic of an attempt to reconcile issues of isolation, freedom, death, immigration, and exile. In *Hybrid of a Chrysler*, wings are attached to the roof of a vintage car. The car, similar to the classic autos used daily in Cuba, appears ready for flight.



Esterio Segura's *Hybrid of a Chrysler*

Installations—May 9-20

Open from 10 a.m. until building close each day
FREE, no tickets required

La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre
and **Fragmento de Paisaje**
Manuel Mendive
Hall of States

Mundos, Torres, Ronda Infinita,
and **Cafedral**
Roberto Fabelo
Hall of Nations

Permanent History
Roberto Diago
Atrium

Poly-Ritmo
José Parlá
North Atrium Foyer

Sombras Silvestres
Emilio Perez
States Gallery

The Art of Celia Ledón
Atrium

Hybrid of a Chrysler
Esterio Segura
River Terrace (outside)

Poster Exhibit: Carteles Cubanos
Cuban Film Posters: A Retrospective
World Premiere Artes de Cuba Posters
by Cuban Art Designers
Atrium

¡Cuba!: Collaboration with the
American Natural History Museum,
New York
Nations Gallery

Tuesday, May 8

Festival Opening Performance
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9

CaribeNostrum
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

“Cocteles Cubanos”
Cuban Cocktail Tastings
Cubano Club, 7 p.m.

Yissy & Bandancha
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 10

Adonis Gonzalez & Mauricio Herrera
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Havana Lyceum Orchestra
with soloists **Ulises Hernández**
and **Alí Arango**
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Yosvany Terry Afro-Cuban Sextet
Cubano Club, 7 & 9 p.m.

Noches Cubanas
(Late-Night Entertainment)
Atrium, 9:30 p.m., FREE

Friday, May 11

Orquesta Miguel Faílde
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Zule Guerra & Quinteto
Blues de Habana
Cubano Club, 7 & 9 p.m.

Malpaso Dance Company
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Noches Cubanas
(Late-Night Entertainment)
Atrium, 9:30 p.m., FREE

Saturday, May 12

Cuban Natural Wonders
Meet the Scientist:
Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski
Cubano Club, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
& 1:30 p.m., FREE

Film Screening: Cuban Canvas
Family Theater, 11 a.m., FREE, ticketed

Film Screening:
Memorias del Subdesarrollo
Family Theater, 1 p.m.

Drum Beat Parade
Grand Foyer, 2–3:30 p.m., FREE

Film Screening: Retrato De Teresa
Family Theater, 4 p.m.

Batucada for Cuba:
From Brooklyn to Brazil
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Film Screening: Lucía
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Piano Marathon
featuring **Aldo López-Gavilán**
and **Jorge Luis Pacheco**
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Malpaso Dance Company
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 13

Film Screening: Fresa y Chocolate
Family Theater, 1 p.m.

Film Screening: Suite Habana
Family Theater, 4 p.m.

Cuban Popular Dances by D.C. Casineros
Millennium Stage, 5 p.m. lessons,
6 p.m. show, FREE

Film Screening: Conducta
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Aymée Nuviola
with special guest **Dr. Ed Calle**
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 14

Arte Y Moda Fashion Show
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Film Screening: First Look
Family Theater, 7 p.m., FREE, ticketed

Manuel Mendive in Performance
with guest musicians **Yosvany Terry,**
Adonis Gonzalez, and Mauricio Herrera
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15

La Dame Blanche
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Compañía Irene Rodríguez
Desde nuestras raíces:
Traditional Flamenco with Afro-Cuban Flair
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16

Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant
Teatro El Público
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Haydée Milanés & Trio
with guest artist **Pablo Milanés**
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Luis Faífe and D.C. Cuban All Stars
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

La Reyna y La Real
Cubano Club, 7 & 9 p.m.

The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant
Teatro El Público
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Noches Cubanas
(Late-Night Entertainment)
Atrium, 9:30 p.m., FREE

Friday, May 18

Cuba Goes Tap by **Keyla Orozco** featuring **Max Pollak**
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

Dafnis Prieto
Cubano Club, 7 & 9 p.m.

The López-Nussa Family
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Noches Cubanas (Late-Night Entertainment)
Atrium, 9:30 p.m., FREE

Saturday, May 19

Guantanamo Celebration
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

10 Million: Argos Teatro
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Los Van Van
Eisenhower Theater, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 20

Tiempo Libre
Millennium Stage, 6 p.m., FREE

10 Million: Argos Teatro
Family Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble
Terrace Theater, 7:30 p.m.

May 29 & May 30

Ballet Nacional de Cuba: Don Quixote
Opera House, 7:30 p.m.

May 31-June 3

Ballet Nacional de Cuba: Giselle
Opera House, 7:30 p.m.

Please note that during *Artes de Cuba*,
the Terrace Gallery will be named the **Cubano Club**,

Cuban Cuisine

The Kennedy Center’s KC Café and Roof Terrace Restaurant & Bar will feature Cuban cuisine along with standard menu items throughout the festival.

In the Gift Shop

During the festival, visitors to the Gift Shop in the Hall of States can shop gifts inspired by Cuba and its cultural heritage—including hats, jewelry, art work, soaps, and giftware.

Interested in Volunteering?

Through the Kennedy Center Friends program, hundreds of volunteers are needed to help support our festival. Go online for more information: kennedy-center.org/friends

**The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts**

Chairman
David M. Rubenstein

President
Deborah F. Rutter

Festival Credits**International Programming**

**Vice President,
International Programming and Dance
Festival Curator**
Alicia Adams

**Director, International Programming
Festival Co-Curator**
Gilda Almeida

Vice President Institutional Affairs
Esther Olavarria

**Art Installations
Production**
Glenn Turner, Vice President Production
Design Consultant
Studio Adrien Gardère
Editor
Karen Taylor

Film Curator
Ivan Giroud

Literature Consultant
Marie Arana

Special Advisors
Ever Chavez, Juan Delgado

Festival Coordinator
Annette Dumas

Visas Supervisor
Freddie Foulke

Support Staff
Jeanne Sobel, Kathi Reynolds, Sean McComas,
Quynh Dao, Shay Stevens, Kyana Waters (intern)

Volunteers
Cynthia Duquette, Debra Simon, Ginger Rogers

Special thanks to the Kennedy Center staff, volunteers,
and all who supported the realization of this festival.

About the Logo

Our festival logo was specially designed by Giselle Monzón Calero. Born in Villa Clara, Cuba, in 1979, Monzón graduated from Havana’s Higher Institute of Design (ISDI) and currently lives and works in Havana. Monzón primarily designs promotional posters for theaters, festivals, and films. Her work has appeared in solo and group shows in Cuba, Switzerland, France, Germany, and other European countries.

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ARTES DE CUBA
FROM THE ISLAND TO THE WORLD
A KENNEDY CENTER-WIDE CELEBRATION
OF CUBAN ARTS AND CULTURE