

Revolucionarias: Women and the Formation of the Cuban Nation

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Smathers Library Gallery

George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Curated by Margarita Vargas-Betancourt and Lillian Guerra

with assistance from Alexis Baldacci and Daniel J. Fernandez-Guevara

Women have been primary protagonists of the cycles of revolution and counterrevolution that shaped Cuba's modern history. During the last war for independence from Spain, the multiple US military occupations and interventions, and Cuba's post-1959 transformation into a Communist society ruled by an authoritarian system, women occupied the front lines of protest movements for social justice and greater democracy. Yet as political activists, intellectuals, workers and self-conscious witnesses, women have been not only sidelined politically by government, but they have remained mostly invisible in narratives about Cuba's past. Women's complex racial/class identities and their divergent ideological formulas for achieving greater freedom are also frequently collapsed into simple accounts of supporting rather than challenging Cuban patriarchy. Seen through epic events and everyday accounts, women emerge as foremost *revolucionarias*, against all odds.

Neill and Nancy Macaulay

1959

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

Nancy Macaulay (American)

We Had to Give up Our Dream – Temporarily at Least

June 1961

Unpublished Manuscript

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

Nancy Macaulay (American)

Letter from Nancy Macaulay to Neill Macaulay's Parents

September 1, 1959

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

Certificate for Voluntary Donation to Agrarian Reform

March 20, 1959

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

Born and raised in South Carolina, Neill Macaulay was inspired by the 26th of July Movement's fight against Batista. So much so, that in 1958 he joined the Rebel Army and began fighting in the Sierra Maestra. After the triumph of the revolution, Neill brought his wife Nancy, pregnant with their first child, to live with him in Cuba. The May 1959 Agrarian Reform made it possible for them to establish a small farm in Pinar del Río: the Finca Nancy. Nancy wrote many warm letters home describing the Agrarian Reform and the Finca Nancy as a dream come true. She embraced her life as a wife, mother, and peasant, and was enthusiastic about the positive impact that the revolutionary reforms were having on the lives of rural women. The dream was short lived. In 1960 Castro's embrace of communism and the increasing collectivization of agriculture forced the Macaulays to leave Cuba and the Finca Nancy.

Untitled

n.d.

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

These girls formed part of the first graduating class of *Minas del Frío*, a school in the Sierra Maestra to train Cuba's first vanguard of Marxist voluntary rural teachers. Assigned to educate isolated peasants politically, many of these teachers subsequently witnessed mass peasant uprisings against Communist economic policies and subsequent campaigns of state repression. Here, the girls await their graduation ceremony, presided over by Fidel Castro.

[Portraits of women]

c.1960s

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

Rural women were among the beneficiaries of the literacy campaigns. In the larger photograph, Ale and Rosa offer a small token to their teacher, Ernesto Chávez, who they call their *hermanito*, or brother, in the dedication. Cubans from the cities—where literacy was much higher—joined the literacy campaigns. This presented a unique moment in Cuban history, where rural and urban, black and white came into contact for the first time.

[Escambray Escuela Rural]

c.1960s

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

[Escambray Escuela Rural]

c.1960s

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

The 1959 Cuban Revolution made good on its promise to provide free and accessible schools for all Cuban youth. Ernesto Chávez is pictured here with his students in a rural hut with dirt floors, called a *bohío*. Many of these children would learn to read and write before their parents.

[Portrait at Cima Turquino]

c.1960s

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

On January 1, 1960, Fidel Castro, Celia Sánchez, and other revolutionary fighters led a “brigade” of male and female students to the highest mountain peak in Cuba, El Pico Turquino. In this picture, both female and male rural instructors posed before a bust of José Martí—placed by Celia Sánchez’s father—as a revolutionary rite of passage. El Pico Turquino became a revolutionary pilgrimage site for instructors of literacy campaigns, students, foreign office members, and anyone who wanted to relive the sacrifice of the revolutionary struggle in the mountains.

Elena Gil Izquierdo (Cuban)

[*La educación de las domesticas: una agudización de la lucha de clases*](#)

n.d.

Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, Dirección Nacional

Special & Area Studies Collections

Early FMC endeavors targeted the most visible remnants of the capitalist system, such as maids and prostitutes, to illustrate the full extent of the revolution's redemptive and empowering project. This study of FMC efforts to educate former domestic workers argues that these projects were part of a true socialist revolution in which the state offered the proletariat the ability to advance through educational and employment opportunities. The study also mentions a more self-serving motive: to instill political loyalty among the women and their families.

Ofelia Dominguez Navarro (Cuban)

De 6 a 6 : la vida en las prisiones cubanas

1937

365.97291D671d

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Ofelia Domínguez Navarro, Mirta Aguirre, and Mariblanca Sabas Alomá were upper-class activists who wrote, taught, and marched for social and gender equality in the 1930s and 1940s. Domínguez Navarro's autobiography, *De 6 a 6*, describes vivid scenes of mothers with their children in prison, medical negligence, and camaraderie among the political prisoners during her three stints in Cuban prisons (Castillo del Príncipe, Guanabacoa, and Nueva Gerona) under Machado.

Teresa Casuso (Cuban) and Elmer Grossberg, Translator

Cuba and Castro

1961

Random House

972.91063C3552c

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

In her autobiography, Teresa Casuso, student activist at the University of Havana during the dictatorship of Gerardo Machado, discusses the beatings, murders, and police intimidation suffered by student leaders that sought autonomy for the University from government intimidation and terror. Casuso participated in both the 1933 and 1959 revolutions, yet eventually fled to the United States.

**Vilma Espín Guillois (Cuban), Asela de los Santos Tamayo (Cuban), and
María Yolanda Ferrer Gómez (Cuban)**

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution within the Revolution

2012

Pathfinder

HQ1507 .E875 2012

Latin America & Caribbean Collection

In 1960, the revolutionary state created the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and named Vilma Espín, wife of Raúl Castro and veteran of the Sierra Maestra, president. The group has spearheaded efforts to integrate women into the workplace, reduce domestic work and childcare, and promote gender equality. While these endeavors have altered traditional gender roles in Cuba, the FMC is also restrictive: it strives to liberate women from male dominance in order to put them at the service of the state. Membership is open to all Cuban women who identify with the revolution.

Guadalupe Hechaverría, Editor (Cuban)

150 recetas de huevos

1984

Editorial Oriente

TX 745.C5 1984

Rare Books Collection

Gift of Lillian Guerra

An unpredictable and insufficient food supply requires creativity to survive. Eggs were often widely available and not rationed during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Now imagine eating them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. How many of these 150 recipes sound palatable and appealing?

Ration Cards

1961-1963

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Purchased with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

These ration cards are typical of the early 1960s. In August 1961, a basic and temporary rationing program was introduced to combat food shortages caused by social and economic upheaval. It was later expanded to include more food items and basic goods. Consumers would bring their card to their assigned site and claim whatever they were due, so long as it was in stock. Because women are usually charged with feeding the family, they have been disproportionately affected by the long lines and other frustrations of the ration system. Though the specific goods and quantities on the ration have varied over the years, rationing continues in Cuba today.

Letter to Neill and Nancy Macaulay from Lucille

August 15, 1962

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

Food shortages and rationing after the revolution shook many people's faith in the government. Even former *fidelistas* like Lucille, an American missionary living in Cuba, were concerned. Attempts to highlight the gravity of conditions often focused on the children who were not receiving sufficient nutrients during their formative years. Another common concern was that Castro had chosen Communism. Lucille alludes to this in her suspicious reference to the influx of Russian and Chinese advisors who she believed to be behind the latest cut in rations.

Aurora de Mena (Cuban)

The Pearl Key, or Midnight and Dawn in Cuba

1896

Vance Print. Co.

972.611 M534t

Rare Books Collection

The daughter of a plantation owner, Aurora de Mena was disowned by her family for spying on Spanish forces during her teenage years. In 1894, just one year before the outbreak of the Independence War, de Mena went into self-imposed exile in Florida. While in Florida, she worked as a Spanish instructor at one of UF's predecessor institutions. To raise awareness of Cuba's independence struggle, she wrote of her experiences in *The Pearl Key*. After independence, she returned to Cuba and became a leader in the development of the public school system.

Estan sacando de la funeraria el feretro que contiene los restos mortales de William Soler...

From *Bohemia*

January 31, 1957

Modern print from microfilm

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Bohemia, Cuba's most widely read "Republican era" magazine, testified to the brutality of the Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship. William Soler, a fourteen-year-old sympathizer of the 26 of July movement, had been tortured and killed by Batista's security forces; Soler's body was found in a Santiago de Cuba warehouse. On January 4, his mother and five hundred other women marched in Santiago to protest. In this photograph taken for *Bohemia*, William Soler's mother cries out "They have assassinated my son! People, they have assassinated him! Murderers...murderers...!"

Cesen los asesinatos de nuestros hijos. Madres Cubanas.

From *Bohemia*

January 31, 1957

Modern print from microfilm

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

This *Bohemia* photograph depicts five hundred Santiago women, dressed in black, walking the streets of Santiago de Cuba in silent protest. The black connotes bereavement and they demand that the government “Stop assassinating our sons.”

Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda (Cuban)

Sab

1920 [Original published 1841]

Agencia General de Librería

PQ6524.S3 1920

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

The daughter of plantation owners, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda was born into prestige and privilege. Yet her upper class upbringing did not insulate her from the violence and revolution of the time. Surrounded by the abolitionist movement, she wrote *Sab*. A revolutionary and controversial novel in which slaves are generous and ethic humans and a white woman declares her love to Sab, a slave.

Aida García Alonso (Cuban)

Manuela la Mexicana

1968

Casa de las Américas

917.29103G216mc.2

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

A Mexican-trained anthropologist, Aida García Alonso returned to Cuba in the early 1960s to document the often ambiguous experience of liberation that the revolutionary state offered former, mostly black slum dwellers in Havana. Alonso’s oral history *Manuela La Mexicana* was written from the perspective of Manuela Azcanio Alías (1890-1964), a Mexican exile who became a major community activist in the notorious slum of Las Yaguas. It was a bestseller among Cuban readers of the late 1960s for its sincere, often critical assessments of life before and after the revolution.

Aida García Alonso (Cuban)

[*Cada quien tenía que cargar con sus cosas*](#)

From *Life in the yaguas*, Photographs by Aida García Alonso
n.d.

Digital Library of the Caribbean

Aida García Alonso (Cuban)

[*Manuela hablando con el coronel*](#)

From *Life in the yaguas*, Photographs by Aida García Alonso
n.d.

Digital Library of the Caribbean

These photographs are part of the illustrations that Aida García Alonso wanted to include in the second edition of *Manuela la Mexicana* which would have been published in the 1970s. Unfortunately, Fidel Castro's regime censored the publication.

Nitza Villapol (Cuban) and Martha Martínez (Cuban)

Cocina al minuto

1960

Roger A. Queral

TX716.C8 V5 1960

Rare Books Collection

Gift of Lillian Guerra

Nitza Villapol (Cuban)

Cocina al minuto

1980

Editorial ORBE

TX716.C8 V5 1980

Rare Books Collection

Gift of Lillian Guerra

Chef Nitza Villapol was a fixture in Cuban kitchens for nearly half a century. In 1948, her cooking show, *Cocina al minuto*, premiered on Cuban television. She would go on to publish multiple editions of a cookbook by the same name until the show went off the air in 1993. Nitza did not shy away from acknowledging the difficulties of feeding a family in revolutionary Cuba and thus was the leading voice in the Cuban culinary scene. She provided readers and viewers with functional ways to transform an insufficient and inconsistent food supply into palatable dinners, night after night.

These two recipes for *carne fría*, illustrate the differences in food availability between 1960 and 1980. Though the 1980 recipe (2) produces almost the same amount of servings as the 1960 recipe (1), it does so with less than half the meat.

Lillian Guerra (Cuban-American)

Manuel “Manolo” Ray and Aurora Chacón de Ray

February-March 2009

Manuel Ray Oral History Collection,

Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Lillian Guerra

Margot Preece

Manolo Ray’s Wife Fights Lonely Hours From the The San Juan Star,

A Kind of Courage, and Ray Report Said ‘Rumor’

June 4, 1964 and n.d.

Manuel Ray Oral History Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Lillian Guerra

Aurora Chacón del Ray spent the early parts of her sixty-five year marriage to Manolo Ray, raising kids alone and denying knowledge of her husband’s whereabouts. After being a key leader of the urban resistance against Batista and serving as Minister of Public Works, Manolo Ray resigned from his government office and started an underground organization with the intention of bringing down the Castro regime. His political activities required him to go into hiding to protect his wife and their growing family. When Aurora finally left Cuba in October 1960, she did so with only thirty dollars and their five children, the youngest of whom was ten months old. Manolo remained in Cuba to continue his counterrevolutionary efforts.

Portrait of Carlos González Blanco done while in prison

n.d.

Carlos González Blanco Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Untitled [Portrait of Ara, Frida, and Carlos González Blanco]

1954

Carlos González Blanco Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Throughout his years in prison, Carlos González Blanco wrote continually to his family who were living in the United States. His letters tell of his pride as a father and husband, of the nostalgia of the happy moments that were gone. He imagines his little girl’s coming of age, her school, her friends, and her boyfriends. What he leaves out is his life in prison, the loneliness, the despair, the torture, the hunger, the illness. His wife Ara and his daughter Frida got hints of Carlos’ real life from his brother Odón who visited him regularly and mailed Carlos’ letters.

Letter to Higinio Fanjul

September 6, 1933

Braga Brothers Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Gift of George Atkinson and B. Rionda Braga

Workers, lesser military officials, and students toppled the dictatorship of Gerardo Machado. In January 1933, two hundred thousand sugar workers walked off the job, paralyzing the economy. Though Machado fled by August 12, 1933, the worker's strikes continued. In this corporate correspondence to Higinio Fanjul of the Manatí Sugar Company, another company official related his fear of bloodshed, concerns for family safety, and the nature of his discussions with U.S. officials as a result of the 1933 Revolution.

José Martí (Cuban)

Cartas de Martí

Facsimile made by the Archivo Nacional for María Mantilla y Miyares, viuda de Romero

Romero Family Papers Regarding José Martí, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Eduardo S. Romero

In this February 2, 1895 letter, José Martí - Cuba's most effective nationalist writer and the organizer of the 1895 War of Independence - describes to María Mantilla the "painful departure" from her and her mother María Miyares, in order to ignite the flames of the Cuban independence struggle. Martí's relationship to Mantilla is controversial; some believe she is the illegitimate daughter of Martí and Miyares, a claim she always denied. The National Archives in Havana presented this facsimile collection of letters to Mantilla after she donated the originals.

Letter from Victoria to Ernesto Chávez

April 7, 1962

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

Letter from Emma to Ernesto Chávez

July 18, 1969

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

The Revolution of 1959 reshaped Cuban society. As society shifted, so did the personal relationships that existed prior to the revolution. Ernesto Chávez received this letter from his girlfriend, Victoria (1). In it, she told him that she understood his revolutionary fervor and would never impede his service to the revolution. Yet, in light of his distance from her, she did not want to formalize their relationship. While he was in the sierra training to become a teacher, Chávez also received this letter from his little sister Emma (2) who complained about her brother's absence.

For young Cubans receiving military training in Cuba or the Soviet Union and teaching in brigades for the literacy campaigns, holding on to family and intimate relations was often difficult.

Stevens R. Renfrow, U.S. Cuban Refugee Program (American)

Letter to Mercedes Blanco from Steven R. Renfrow

March 12, 1976

Carlos González Blanco Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Frida Masdeu

Mercedes Blanco was heartbroken over the incarceration of her son, Carlos González Blanco. She wrote to anyone she felt could possibly intervene to secure his release; even the first lady of the United States, Betty Ford. It is possible that Blanco hoped to gain Mrs. Ford's sympathies as a wife and mother. Mrs. Ford forwarded that letter to the Cuban Refugee Program, whose response is seen here.

Inverna Lockpez (Cuban-American), Dean Haspiel, Artist, José Villarrubia, Colorist and Pat Brosseau, Letterer

Cuba My Revolution

2010

DC Comics/Vertigo

PN6727.L63 C83 2010

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Inverna Lockpez's graphic novel is an autobiographical account of an upper-class Cuban girl who heeding the revolution's call for sacrifice, studies medicine instead of art. Like many other young Cubans, Lockpez was forced into filling the void created by masses of middle class doctors, teachers, and managers who fled Cuba. In her account, she was wrongfully imprisoned while giving medical attention to a 2506 Brigade member during the Bay of Pigs invasion. She was stripped naked, shot with hot and cold water from a hose, electroshocked, and interrogated.

Robert N. Pierce (American)

Untitled

January 29, 1959

Gelatin silver print

Robert N. Pierce Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Robert N. Pierce

Robert N. Pierce was one of many American journalists invited to Cuba by Fidel Castro as part of Operation Truth. Castro hoped this would cultivate positive press in the United States about the trials and executions of security officials responsible for atrocities committed during the Batista dictatorship. Here families and friends anxiously waited to see prisoners at La Cabaña fortress in Havana.

Robert N. Pierce (American)

Untitled

January 26, 1959

Gelatin silver print

Robert N. Pierce Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Robert N. Pierce

Robert N. Pierce (American)

Justicia para mi hijo y millares más asesinados

January 21, 1959

Gelatin silver print

Robert N. Pierce Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Gift of Robert N. Pierce

Hundreds of Cubans were executed by Fulgencio Batista's henchmen. Cuban women demanded an end to the violence. The mother of a fallen 26 of July member asks for "Justice! For my son," and thousands more that have been assassinated.

Dirección provincial de establecimientos penitenciarios

December 31, 1969

Reproduction of Certificate

Reina Peñate de Tito Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections

Gift of Reina Peñate de Tito

Because she was female and less likely to draw unwanted attention, Reina Peñate de Tito was approached by groups seeking to overthrow the revolutionary state in 1961. That same year she was arrested and imprisoned for counterrevolutionary activity. After serving eight years, Peñate received this certificate upon her release.

Nelson Rodríguez Diéguez (Cuban)

Recuento para la historia. Mujeres en la heroica gesta contra el totalitarismo en Cuba

2009

Gift of Nelson Rodríguez Diéguez

An ex-political prisoner in exile, Rodríguez Diéguez gathered the stories and photos of hundreds of Cuban women who suffered similar fates on the island. Convicted of counterrevolution or conspiring against the state, some women served sentences up to thirty years. Yet the Cuban public received little or no information about their prosecution and related denials of individual political freedoms. This book preserves this rich and often heartrending history of female political prisoners' mostly forgotten and ignored struggles.

Las primeras manos que cuidan al niño

August 8, 1960

George A. Smathers Papers, Special & Area Studies Collections

A primary goal of the revolution was to bridge the rural-urban gap that divided Cuba. One of the many solutions to raise the rural standards of living was to extend healthcare into the countryside. The increased demand for healthcare professionals necessitated advertisements such as these, which urged women to show their revolutionary colors and become nurses. The demand was also exacerbated by the flood of educated professionals who left the island after 1959.

Letter to Senator George A. Smathers from Madres Cubanas en el Exilio

March 1962

George A. Smathers Papers, Special & Area Studies Collections

A group of exiled Cuban women in the United States, who called themselves “Cuban mothers in exile,” requested the U.S. government send men with combat experience to help train and equip a Female Liberation Army to fight against the revolutionary state. They justified their radical stance with their status as mothers. In their plea, they describe the heartache of losing loved ones and sympathize with women who remained on the island struggling with food shortages that jeopardized the well-being of Cuba’s children.

Album de la Revolución Cubana 1952-1959

c. 1959

Special & Area Studies Collections

Children cut and paste cartoon panels in the set order to assemble this propaganda comic book. The educational result tells the story of the 26th of July Movement’s struggle against Fulgencio Batista. This specially designated section highlights women’s varied roles and their contributions to the revolution.

Untitled

n.d.

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Taken by official photographers of the Batista regime at the Goicuría military base in Matanzas, this image shows military wives giving used clothing away to poor families in the early spring of 1956. Only weeks later, rebels backed by deposed Authentic Party President Prío de Socarrás launched a failed assault on the base. Women, including some military wives, provided key intelligence for the assault.

[Little girl on tank]

1959

Gelatin silver print

Neill Macaulay Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Gift of Nancy Macaulay

The triumph of the 1959 Revolution exploded in collective celebration. One immediate impact of the triumph was the reunification of families that had been split by the fight against Batista.

[Woman aiming rifle]

c.1960s

Gelatin silver print

Ernesto Chávez Collection, Special & Area Studies Collection

Library purchase with funds from the Manuel Pedro González Endowment

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 opened many new spaces for women. As in the Chinese and Russian Revolutions, women were allowed access to military and militia training. The woman in the photograph sharpens her skills as a marksman in rural military training.

Monica Brown (Peruvian-American) and Rafael López (Mexican-American)

My name is Celia : the life of Celia Cruz / Me llamo Celia : la vida de Celia Cruz

2004

Luna Rising

39h12918

Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature

Celia Cruz erupted on to the scene in the early 1950s with Cuba's most popular swing band: La Sonora Matancera. Celia was the first female popular musician in Cuba to sing to African-inspired music to a national audience. In 1960, she left Cuba for Mexico and later New York where she joined Tito Puente and the Fania All-Stars as the only female singer in male dominated salsa. Her music reflected the life of the Latinos living the barrios. Throughout the world, her catchphrase ¡Azúcar! is synonymous with Cuba.

Rachel Weiss (American), Celia González (Cuban), and Yunior Aguiar (Cuban)

Marital Status, 2004-8

From Rachel Weiss *To and from utopia in the new Cuban art* University of Minnesota Press

2011

Six marriage certificates and six divorce certificates

N6603.2.W45 2011

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Upon marriage, the state offers the chance to purchase food and alcohol for a small wedding reception. Over the years, Cuban artists Celia González and Yunior Aguiar married and divorced each other six times. This performance served as commentary and evidence of the various methods of working within the bureaucracy to circumvent the restrictions on everyday life. The repeated behavior is indicative of the petty criminality that is central to many people's survival.

Rachel Weiss (American) and Tania Bruguera (Cuban)

El peso de la culpa (*The burden of guilt*, 1997-99)

From Rachel Weiss *To and from utopia in the new Cuban art* University of Minnesota Press

2011

Color photograph still from performance

N6603.2.W45 2011

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

One of Cuba's most daring performance artists of the 1990s, Tania Bruguera comments here on the dual role of the Cuban people as both a lamb sacrificed to the will of Cuba's authoritarian state and their historic complicity as voluntary, even proud partners in the bloody, messy everyday system of citizen-on-citizen surveillance on which the state has relied.

Pastor Vega, Director (Cuban)

Retrato de Teresa

1979

Zafra Video

DVD

PN1997 .R5135 2000

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Portrait of Teresa is a Cuban drama that reflects the challenges faced by Cuban women: family life, work, participation in labor unions, participation in local committees, and a husband that is unwilling to follow her into the twentieth-first century. The director demonstrates her struggles masterfully, by depicting scenes with no narration that follow Teresa, portrayed by Daisy Granados, waking up at dawn, preparing dinner for the evening, preparing lunch, making breakfast, dressing her children, staying late at work, and getting home exhausted to a jealous, albeit cheating, husband.

Huber Matos (Cuban)

Yoani, Rosa Maria, Bertha y Eliecer

From *La Ideal*

2013

E184.C97

Latin American & Caribbean Collection

Contemporary opposition toward Raúl Castro manifests itself in many different forms on the island; women are at the forefront of all of these attempts to expand civil liberties. Blogger Yoani Sánchez, Catholic Church advocate Rosa María Payá, and Berta Soler of the "Ladies in White" have all taken public stances against the government. This article, in the exile magazine *La Ideal*, accuses Raúl Castro's government of unwittingly "opening Pandora's box" with the recent reform that permits all Cubans freedom to travel outside the country. The article argues that Yoani Sánchez, Rosa María Payá, and Berta Soler's visits to the exterior have increased not mitigated, pressure on the regime.

Las Damas de Blanco

Feliz Año 2010

2010

www.damasdeblanco.com

The Ladies in White formed in 2003 in response to the politically-motivated arrest and imprisonment of seventy-five human rights defenders and independent journalists. The members of the group are all female relatives of the imprisoned dissidents. They protest peacefully each Sunday, attending mass and walking silently through the streets dressed in white. Because they oppose the state, which maintains strict control over most economic activity, the Ladies have few resources at their disposal. This freely available calendar represents one attempt to raise awareness of their struggle.