

ARH 5XXX
Dept. of Art and Art History
A History of Cuban Art
MW 11:00-12:15, Spring 2012

Prof. Juan A. Martínez
Office: VH216 /phone: 348-3539/martinej@fiu.edu
Hours: Wed. 2:00-300pm, Or by appointment

Course Description

A survey of the visual arts in Cuba from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. This survey uses a contextual approach, anchoring the artwork as much as possible in its historical, social, and cultural context. A main theme of the course is an examination of the contribution of the visual arts to the symbolization of a Cuban cultural identity(ies).

Learning Objectives

Learn about the institutions that supported Cuban art, critics and or others who promoted it, the major artists involved, their most important artworks, and their contribution to Cuban culture from ca. 1800 to 2000.

Required Reading

Gary R. Libby, Cuba, A History in Art, 1997
Luis Camnitzer, New Art of Cuba (2nd edition)2003

Course Requirements

--Attendance. Three or more absences will result in the lowering of a letter grade.
--25% first exam
--25% second exam
--50% term paper

The exams consist of identification and essay questions based on class notes, textbook reading, (Cuba, A History in Art) and images found in the (Internet) Reserved section of the FIU library.

The term paper (12-15 pages, double spaced, with footnotes and bibliography) should be written on the work of a Cuban artist or a theme: Afrocuban religion/culture, social commentary, popular culture, landscape, etc.

Other

No make-up exams or Incomplete grade, except with valid written excuse provided PRIOR to either exam.

Course Outline

Colonial Period. Painting and lithography in the 19th century. Academic art and *costumbrismo*
Early development of the representation of landscape and the figures of the *guajiro* and the Afrocuban as national symbols.

Early Republican Period. Academic art continues.

First Exam February 1

Republican Period. Modern painting from 1910s thru 1940s. *Afrocubanismo*, *criollismo*, and *barroquismo* as themes of national cultural identity(ies). Modern Painting in the 1950s.
Abstraction and cosmopolitanism.

Revolutionary Period. Painting and Poster art in the 1960s. Appropriation of contemporary/international artistic languages (Pop art, Photo-Realism, etc.) to express Cuban socio-political content.

Second Exam March 7 or 21 (Spring Break- March 11th to 17th)

Contemporary Cuban art. Art of the 1980s and 1990s, in and outside of Cuba. Appropriation of contemporary international artistic trends (mixed media, Conceptual and Performance art, etc.) to critically address personal as well as collective social issues.

Paper due April 16

Suggested Reading

Books in Reserve, UP library

Colonial Period (material related to first exam)

--Libby, G. Cuba: a History in Art 1997

--Cuba: Art and History from 1868 to Today, 2008

--Pintura española y cubana y litografías y grabados del siglo XIX, (Cuban Colonial art, good reproductions. In Spanish)

--Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, 2001 (Survey of Cuban art. Illustrations of major works of Cuban art from the 19th and 20th centuries.. In Spanish)

--Antonio Nuñez Jimenez, Marquillas cigarreras cubanas, 1989 (Tobacco lithographs, Excellent illustrations. In Spanish)

Republican Period (material related to second exam)

--Juan A. Martinez, Cuban Art and National Identity; The vanguardia Generation ... 1994 (About the first generation of modern painters, 1930s & 1940s)

--Stokes Sims, Blanc, & Herzberg. Wifredo Lam and his Contemporaries: 1939-1952, 1992 (Lam and Cuban art of the 1940s)

--Giulio Blanc, Amelia Peláez, a Retrospective, 1988

--Agustín Fernández, A Retrospective 199 (Cuban modern art in the 1950s & early 60s)

--Guido Llinás and Los Once After Cuba 1997 (Cuban modern art in the 1950s & early 60s)

--"Antonia Eiriz in Retrospect." Antonia Eiriz 1995

Contemporary Cuban art (material related to term paper)

--Ileana Fuentes Perez, et al, Outside Cuba, 1989 (Cuban and Cuban-American art 1970s-1980s)

--Utopian Territories, New Art of Cuba, 1999 (Cuban art of the 1990s)

--Holly Block, et al. Art Cuba, The New Generation. 2001 (Cuban art of the 1990s.)

--Lynette Bosch, Cuban-American Art in Miami 2004

Books in Special Collection (4th floor), UP library

José Gómez Sicre, Cuban Painting Today, 1944 (Cuban art of the 1930s and 1940s)

G. Stermer, The Art of Revolution, 1970 (Cuban Poster art of the 1960s and 1970s)

The Nearest Edge of the World, Art and Cuba Now, 1990 (Cuban art of the 1980s)

Please check Green Library UP campus General Collection for more books, catalogues and videos on Cuban art.