

Exhibition: ***Reinventions: Dominican post-dictatorship
photography***

IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern
29 September – 13 November, 2005

Organized by: *IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern
Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes*

The presentation at the IVAM of the exhibition *Reinventions: Dominican post-dictatorship photography*. Works from the collection of the Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes marks the beginning of a collaboration between these two institutions which share a great interest in the promotion of art and culture. The exhibition shows the kind of photographic art that was generated in the Dominican Republic after three long decades of dictatorship under Rafael Leónidas Trujillo (1930–1961). New images have gradually taken the place of previous photographic work, which was based mainly on exaltation of the ruling regime and was full of romantic, saccharine portrayals of reality.

A catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition, with texts by the Director of the IVAM, Consuelo Císcar, the Director General of the Centro León, Rafael Emilio Yunen, and the Visual Arts specialist at the Centro León, Sara Hermann.

This exhibition project presents the hypothesis that the conditions necessary for the emergence of a particular kind of photographic art in the historical post-dictatorship period materialized in the Dominican Republic. The resulting work served as a means of expression for a generation and will characterize and influence the future development of this genre among Dominican photographers and artists.

In addition to exploring the origins of contemporary Dominican photography, this exhibition suggests the contributions that this form of artistic expression has made to the search for possible components of a new national image. Simply by means of photographs, the selection presented at the IVAM shows, for the first time, some of the outstanding, paradigmatic referents for the society and space that were being constructed in the Dominican Republic from the 1960s onwards. And so *Reinventions* is an exhibition that challenges existing notions about what is “Dominican”, not only in the Dominican Republic but also in the widest international circles.

Four thematic areas define this concept: Repressions, Reinventions, Landscapes and Essays. The first provides a contrast to the other three and involves research about photography in the times of the dictatorship (Santiago “Chaguito” Morel and Max Pou). The other areas achieve an evaluation of a variety of themes and genres, treated by Wifredo García and the new artists (Julio González, Pedro José Borrell, Víctor “Cuqui” Cabrera, Pedro Nicasio, Domingo Batista and José Antonio Ramírez). This structure serves as a basis to emphasize an analysis of approaches to the body and to particular ethnic characters and phenotypes; to landscape, habitat, and historical and anthropological accounts; and, lastly, to the dialectic between the individual view of the photographers and the reality presented in their work.