Dear Friends:

Come join us as we celebrate Havana’s 12th Biennial. Experience the city transformed into one of the largest galleries in the world. Art spills out of galleries, schools, historical sites, and public spaces with installations and performances taking place on street corners and along the beautiful seafront promenade. The entire city comes together to celebrate the works of 180 artists from 45 countries around the world each of them addressing the biennial’s theme, “What Lies between the Idea and Experience.”

Don’t miss the unique opportunity to take part in this extraordinary biennial while immersing yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba. Our program has been designed to allow the group to meet local residents, artists, and professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life while exploring local landmarks significant to the country’s artistic heritage.

This trip is limited to 24 participants, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to make your reservation today!

Warm regards,

Aleksandra Matic
Associate Director of Member Travel
The Art Institute of Chicago
**Itinerary**

**Havana: Wednesday, May 20**

Depart Miami bound for Havana.

Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at La Moneda Cubana followed by a city orientation tour by bus led by architectural historian Ayleen Robaiyna. The tour will include a visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which, when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design.

Transfer to the Parque Central Hotel, ideally located in Old Havana.

Enjoy a private cocktail reception followed by a welcome dinner on the hotel roof.

**Havana: Thursday, May 21**

This morning, enjoy a carefully crafted walking tour of Old Havana with the opportunity to speak to local residents and shopkeepers. Of all the capital cities in the Caribbean, Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Included will be stops at the Museum of Colonial Art and the Museum of Religious Art.

Stop at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square before ending the morning at the Wilfredo Lam Center, the organizer of the Havana Biennial. The center is a cultural institution dedicated to the study, research, and promotion of contemporary visual arts from developing countries and includes a permanent exhibit of Wilfredo Lam’s lithographs and etchings.

Visit the Hotel Nacional, an iconic hotel opened in 1930, and enjoy lunch on the beautiful grounds of the hotel at La Barraca Restaurant.

Continue on for a walk through the beautiful Colon Cemetery which represents for many Cuban families the long and painful legacy of family separation.

Enjoy dinner this evening at Café Oriente.

**Havana: Friday, May 22**

Today is the opening day of the biennial. Depending on what biennial-related events are happening, the itinerary for today may be modified.

Enjoy a morning lecture by Professor Ricardo Torres on “The Changing Faces of Cuba’s Economic Structure.”

Spend the rest of the morning visiting various exhibits of the 12th Biennial.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the studio of the Merguer—a collaborative group made up of artists Mario Miguel Gonzalez (Mayito), Niels Moleiro Luis, and Alain Pino.

Enjoy drinks with artist Kadir Lopez followed by dinner at the home of artist Sandra Ramos. Her works focus on the recovery of social and individual memory, linked to the difficulties of the daily life in Cuba. She is an outspoken critic of the political manipulation of Cuba’s political history and uses her art to express this.

**Havana: Saturday, May 23**

Depart for a full-day excursion to Matanzas, which began to flourish after large sugar mills were established in the region between 1817 and 1827. As a result of the number of artists, writers, musicians, and intellectuals living here at that time, Matanzas became known as the “Athens of Cuba.”

Explore the historic quarter, including Plaza de la Vigia, which marks the site of the original settlement. Stop at the Ediciones Vigia which produces hand-made first-edition books on a range of topics. These remarkable pieces are works of art. Enjoy a special visit to the Pharmacy Museum, located in a beautiful house, with an extraordinary collection of original equipment, furnishings, and medical recipes.

Continue on to Matanzas Seminary which provides an education program to young church leaders. After lunch at the
seminary, enjoy a performance in the chapel by the Matanzas Chamber Choir.

Return to Havana and enjoy dinner at La Guarida which served as the setting for the main apartment in the film Fresa y Chocolate.

**Havana: Sunday, May 24**  
**B, L**

This morning, enjoy a roundtable discussion, “Living in Cuba Today,” led by Dr. Rena Pérez, formerly with the Ministry of Agriculture and an advisor to the Ministry of Sugar.

Continue on to the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano accompanied by curator Lucila Fernandez. The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes is actually divided into two sections, occupying two buildings: the Cuban Collection and the International Collection. The museum always hosts special biennial exhibits which the group will enjoy.

Next visit a community project called Artecorte and enjoy lunch in the community at a newly opened paladar called El Figaro.

After lunch, drive to the home of noted photographer Figueroa and his wife, Cristina Vives, a well-known Cuban art critic and dealer.

Enjoy a visit to artist Yoan Capote’s studio.

Enjoy dinner at leisure this evening. A list of recommended restaurants will be provided.

**Havana: Monday, May 25**  
**B, L**

This morning, hear about US–Cuban Relations from Professor Raul Rodriquez from the University of Havana.

After the discussion, visit La Finca Yoandra to learn about urban gardening. The effects of the Special Period and consequent food shortages have had great repercussions in the city of Havana. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a newly opened restaurant attached to the urban garden.

After lunch, enjoy a visit to the biennial exhibits.

Attend an early-evening reception at the Ludwig Foundation, created to protect and promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture, develop research works and new technologies applied to the artistic field, and encourage dialogue with both Cuban and international cultural communities.

This evening, enjoy dinner at leisure.

**Havana: Tuesday, May 26**  
**B, L, D**

Watch a dance rehearsal at the Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, an extraordinary dance group that melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rippling spines and head rolls of traditional or folkloric Afro-Cuban dance, the complex rhythms of Cuban rumba, and the twirling hands and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

This morning, we will visit an artist’s studio to be determined.

After lunch at El Ajibe, visit the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA). The school consists of five departments: music, ballet, modern dance, theater, and fine arts.

Continue on to the 331 ArtSpace studio to view the works of three young and emerging artists: Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mujica, and Alex Hernandez.

Spend the balance of the afternoon enjoying visits to the biennial exhibits.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at the privately operated restaurant L’Atelier.

**Return**  
**B, L, D**

Depart Havana for your flight to the US.
Program Costs and Inclusions

Trip Price: $4,720 per person
Single supplement: $870 per person
Group size is limited to 24 travelers.

Includes all internal air, all hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, meals as listed in program (B,L,D), all tours, excursions, sightseeing and porterage, full lecture program, pre-departure materials and reading list, and the services of a local Cuban guide who will accompany the group throughout the trip.

Does not include international airfare into and out of Cuba, visa fees for Cuba, excess luggage charges, medical expenses, trip insurance, gratuities, and items of a purely personal nature.

Reservation Instructions

To confirm your space on this trip, please fill out and sign the accompanying application form, and return it to the Art Institute’s Member Travel department with a deposit check in the amount of $500 per person and a very legible photocopy of the photo page(s) of your passport(s).

Please make checks payable to “Distant Horizons.” Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a $250 per-person administration fee.

Travel insurance information will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

Also, please note that due to the charter flight schedules we strongly recommend that you overnight in Miami on May 19.

This travel program is specially designed for Art Institute members. For more information or to become a member, please phone the Member Travel department at (312) 443-3115.

Mail application to:
The Art Institute of Chicago, Member Travel Department, 111 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603

Please note that this trip is subject to the renewal of the Art Institute of Chicago’s People-to-People license. The Art Institute of Chicago’s tour operator, Distant Horizons, is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at tcrsinfo.org. California Law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. Distant Horizons has a trust account.
Regina Mamou
The Art Institute of Chicago: Member Travel, Cuba

Regina Mamou is a Los Angeles- and Chicago-based visual artist working at the intersection of photography, installation, writing, and research practices. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. In 2009, Mamou received a Fulbright Fellowship to explore memory-based navigational methods in Amman, Jordan. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally and included in exhibitions at Makan Art Space in Amman, Jordan; Action Field Kodra in Thessaloniki, Greece; the Historic Water Tower Gallery in Chicago, Illinois; and the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts in New York, New York, among others. She will be participating in a forthcoming project with Arte No Es Fácil in Havana, Cuba, in 2015. Mamou worked in museum education at the Art Institute of Chicago between 2006 and 2014 lecturing on a wide variety of art and special exhibitions. As an artist cum lecturer, Mamou focuses her interests on topics of contemporary art and photography that deal with geographical and sociopolitical issues. Mamou attended the 11th Havana Biennial in 2012, and this is the third trip to Cuba she will be leading for the Art Institute of Chicago.

12th Havana Biennial

Established in 1984, long before the worldwide boom of biennials in the mid-1990s, the Havana Biennial has become an important meeting place for artists from all over the world, especially emerging artists from non-Western countries. For an entire month, the vibrant metropolis of Havana is transformed into a sprawling, citywide exhibition as both Cuban and international artists take over urban spaces, galleries, and cultural institutions. The past several biennials have showcased increasingly sophisticated and poignant works by Cuban artists, a telling sign of how Cuba is changing.

The 2015 biennial will include the work of approximately 150 artists from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States. The works of these artists will be shown in different spaces and galleries throughout the city, often in very spectacular locations. Under the theme “Between the Idea and Experience,” the 12th biennial will exhibit a group of works from artists that reflect this chosen thesis. The biennial organizers are interested in using art to explore the wide spectrum of problems that affect us daily in our countries and in our relations with the rest of the world. They expect the 12th biennial to focus less on specific topics and more on the creative process. It intends to expand the efforts of previous biennials involving the local and professional communities in the country.

The organizing curators have said, “The projects to be carried out in Havana must bear an effect upon its inhabitants, either through the latter’s participation in their concept and achievement or through the presentation of the works as a live social laboratory. We would like to have the diverse scales of the urban network—universities, research centers and everything that makes integration possible—used as location and working material. We wish to favor the intersections between different art expressions such as dance, theater, music, the cinema, and literature, considering the semantic wealth that hybridization contributes to what we understand as visuality. The basic idea is to grant these crossings a leading role instead of being mere backdrops. Hence, our interest in extending an invitation for the confluence of artists and specialists in other disciplines.”

The curatorial team of the 12th Havana Biennial includes:
Director and Curator Jorge Fernandez Torres
Artistic Director and Curator Margarita Gonzalez Lorente
Curators Nelson Herrera Ysla, José Manuel Noceda Fernandez, Margarita Sanchez Prieto, Ibis Hernandez Abascal, Dannys Montes de Oca Moreda, and José Fernandez Portal
APPLICATION FORM

WHEN YOU RETURN THIS APPLICATION,
PLEASE INCLUDE A LEGIBLE PHOTOCOPY OF THE PHOTO & SIGNATURE PAGES OF YOUR PASSPORT.

Art Institute of Chicago: The Art and Artists of Cuba featuring Havana’s 12th Biennial

Trip Dates: May 20-27, 2015

Name Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. ____________________________________________________________
Exactly as listed in your passport (First)                                      (Middle)                                      (Last)

Preferred first name: ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________

Mother’s maiden name (required for charter flight booking): ______________________________________

Occupation (required for visa application): ____________________________________________

Home Phone: __________________ Business Phone: __________________ Cell Phone: __________________

E-mail Address: ____________________________________________________________________

Describe your health. ________________________________________________________________

Do you have any allergies or physical limitations? _________________________________________

Do you have any diet restrictions? ______________________________________________________

Are you presently under a doctor’s care or taking any medications? If yes, please elaborate.

________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency contact person, phone number, and relationship: _________________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS

Distant Horizons will do everything possible to satisfy requests to share a room for single tour members. On occasions when it is not possible, the single supplement will apply.

I want a single room.                          I will share a room with: ____________________________

I have read the terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Terms and Conditions

Reservations and Payments: Reservations for this tour require a nonrefundable deposit of $500 per person and an application form signed by the participant. Full balance of the trip cost is due upon receipt of invoice no later 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Price Includes: Educational program of lectures and discussions, roundtrip airfare on charter flights between Miami and Cuba, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, one drink with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all basic gratuities, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation.

Visas: Distant Horizons will issue the necessary Cuban visa for all non-Cuban-born tour participants. Distant Horizons cannot be held responsible in any way for any cost incurred if they are denied entry into the country upon arrival even with a valid visa. It is the traveler’s responsibility to verify that all details of their visa are correct.

Tour Cost: Based on rates of currency exchange at time of printing (November 2014) and is subject to change with or without previous notice. If there is a price increase prior to the day of departure in the basic costs, such increases may be passed on to the participant.

Tour Price Does Not Include: Domestic airfare to and from Miami, Miami hotel, meals not specified in the itinerary, personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls, liquor, room service, independent and private transfers, departure tax of 25 CUCs in Cuba, and excess luggage charges. Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. Airfare is subject to change without notice by the airlines.

Cancellations: Distant Horizons and the Art Institute of Chicago reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants.

If a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:
Notice more than 90 days prior to departure: a refund less a $250 cancellation charge
Notice between 89 days and 60 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price
Notice between 59 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 75% of trip price
No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.
No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours, or any unused services.

Air Carriers Contract: The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time tour members are on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airline concerned when the ticket is issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger.

Responsibility: Distant Horizons and the Art Institute of Chicago act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation, or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts, or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor the Art Institute of Chicago nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay, or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics, or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and the Art Institute of Chicago cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and the Art Institute of Chicago are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.

Waiver and Release: In order to participate in the travel program, you will be required to execute an Art Institute of Chicago Waiver and Release form that will be provided to you prior to departure.