

PRESS RELEASE

Americas Society Presents the Lecture *American Hunger: The Avant-Garde in Cuba*, Followed by a Screening of Film Shorts by Sara Gomez

The event, which will take place on May 17 at 7:00 PM, is part of the Cuban Arts Festival

New York, May 8, 2005 – The Americas Society will host *American Hunger: The Avant-Garde in Cuba*, a lecture by Curator Rocío Aranda-Alvarado, followed by a screening of film shorts by Sara Gomez on May 17th at 7:00-9:00 PM. This event, which is part of the Cuban Arts Festival, organized by the Cuban Artists Fund in partnership with El Instituto Cervantes, is also supported by The Cintas Foundation. The Cintas Foundation awards fellowships annually to creative artists of Cuban lineage who are currently residing outside of Cuba. The Cintas prize finalists will be announced at an opening reception at the Americas Society on June 6, 2005 and exhibited throughout June.

American Hunger: The Avant-Garde in Cuba, A lecture by Curator Rocío Aranda-Alvarado

This presentation will discuss the Cuban avant-garde of the 1920s and its influence on art movements in later periods. It will also consider the relationship of this early movement to similar movements that were occurring simultaneously elsewhere in the Americas. Movements such as *Cubanismo* in Havana will be explored in relation to the Harlem Renaissance, *Antropofagia* in Brazil and to later movements developed by Cuban artists of the 1940s.

Rocío Aranda-Alvarado is the curator at the Jersey City Museum, where she organizes exhibitions of historical and contemporary art, based on the permanent collection and on work by both established and emerging American artists. She is currently working on a retrospective of the work and ideas of Rafael Montañez Ortiz and another group show titled *Tropicalisms: Subversions of Paradise*.

Screening: Film Shorts of Sara Gomez (1943-1974) (In Spanish only, no subtitles.)

Una Isla Para Miguel (20 mins.): The film was filmed in the early years of the Cuban Revolution and follows the case of Miguel, a “juvenile delinquent” sent to re-education camp for street kids who refused to work or go to school. The film begins with Miguel’s hearing before the camp’s disciplinary assembly, where he expresses his frustration with the camp’s strict discipline. The camp’s curriculum consists of general studies, as well as participation in some form of work and military defense in order to turn the rebellious youths into productive members of society.

Y . . . Tenemos Sabor (24 mins.): The film is an inspiring documentary that introduces the fundamental instruments used to create the unique rhythmic sounds of Cuban music. The music and dance captured in this video show the energy of these infectious Cuban rhythms.

About Sara Gomez:

Born in Cuba, Gomez was a journalist who began studying cinema at Instituto Cubano del Arte e Industria Cinematograficos (ICAIC) (the Cuban Institute of Cinematic Art and Industry) in the 1960s. She worked as an Assistant Director to Jorge Fraga, Tomas Gutierrez Alea and Agnes Varda. Sara Gomez made a series of documentary shorts before directing *De Cierta Manera* (1975), titled in English *One Way or Another*. While her film was in post-production she died of an acute asthma attack. Her film was completed by Tomas Gutierrez Alea.

PROGRAM

Cuban Arts Festival

May 17, 2005

7:00-8:00 PM - *American Hunger: The Avant-Garde in Cuba* Lecture

8:00-9:00 PM – Screening Film Shorts of Sara Gomez

Americas Society

680 Park Ave @ 68th St, New York, NY

www.americas-society.org

About Cintas Foundation:

The Cintas Foundation, Inc. awards fellowships annually to creative artists of Cuban lineage residing outside of Cuba. Established with funds from the estate of the late Oscar B. Cintas, former Cuban ambassador to the United States and a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts, the program is administered by the Cintas Foundation Board and the Institute of International Education, the nation's oldest and most active organization in the field of international education and cultural exchange. The Cintas exhibit opens on June 6th and runs through June 30th. The prize finalists will be announced at an opening reception at the Americas Society on June 6th.

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