

Sam Hatzis

Photographs

Havana on the Edge

9th – 21st October, 2007



May One

480 x 370mm

Gallery Savah is delighted to present 'Havana on the Edge', a series of photographs by accomplished fine artist and well-known gallery owner, Sam Hatzis. With an impressive portfolio that includes landscape paintings and figurative drawings, Hatzis has proved himself to be unafraid of approaching new artistic mediums with this fabulous exhibition of contemporary photographs of Havana, Cuba.

Hatzis' images document the streets and people of Havana, with particular emphasis on textured building surfaces, juxtaposed ironwork and graffiti. They observe the unique character of the architecture and the daily life of the locals in the old and modern town through minimalist compositions that beautifully depict the vibrant colours of Cuba's capital city and its people.

As a city on the edge of imminent change the air thick with the "war of ideas" (a concept promoted by the country's leadership), Hatzis has captured the nuanced essence of Havana as it is now. The facades of the once magnificent dwellings have worn away and to some extent become public art spaces splattered with graffiti and posters. Layers of paint have been shaved away by the elements and the render stripped by hurricanes and sea air. The lack of restoration due to the unavailability of even the most basic of building materials adds a raw charm to the city that is only emphasized by the people. Strength, resourcefulness and sturdy moral foundations characterise the Cubans who are bound together through dance and song.

Hatzis explains, "I had no idea what to expect in Havana and Cuba. For me the country revealed the romanticism of the idea. A stark contrast to the Disneyland like life I experienced in Sydney."

"Creating extraordinary from the ordinary is admirable. And the Cubans are certainly extraordinary. I saw a lot of beautiful ordinary objects longing to be noticed. Perhaps there is an oxymora left in it still. It's like a sweet sorrow of the 21st century and sharing these images with others is important because ideas can bring about change."

'Havana on the Edge' series is available in portfolios of sixteen limited edition photographs. Each photograph is signed and numbered and presented as a set in an archival box. For more information please contact Emma Lenyszyn or Sarah McCarthy on 9360 9979

GALLERY
SAVAH

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