

NEW RELEASE

Manuel Rivera-Ortiz
CUBA
Finding Home

Text by Manuel Rivera-Ortiz
 Designed by Kehrer Verlag (Paul Spehr)
 Hardcover
 24 x 20 cm
 192 pages
 121 duotone illustrations
 English
 ISBN 978-3-96900-030-4
 Euro 38,00

Cuba, frozen in time, is the backdrop for a time travel in search of the photographer's childhood memories.

»In 2002, I went to Cuba on a personal quest for selfdiscovery. I needed to remember what Puerto Rico was like when I was growing up. I'd often been told that, in some ways, time had stood still in Cuba; I'd heard that said by Papá's friends who had immigrated to Puerto Rico from Cuba some years back. I'd sit and listen to their powerful stories about Castro and his regime and the hardships. Mostly, I remember their stories about leaving family behind!

My Puerto Rico was still alive and well here, in the west at tobacco farms near Pinar del Rio, in the east near Playa Girón on the bank of the Bahía de Cochinos, the Bay of Pigs, and further on in Cienfuegos and Trinidad and Camaguey! And new friends — I found a unique community here, foreign to foreigners but not to me, more like a family in so many ways.

I saw barefoot children playing made-up games on the sun-baked streets, rolling old bicycle tires with a stick. I saw hope and happiness on their faces. I saw — me. Here's my Cuba. Here's my Puerto Rico.«
 – Manuel Rivera-Ortiz

*»Cuba and Puerto Rico are
 Of one bird its two wings,
 receiving flowers or bullets
 over a similar heart ...
 How much if in the illusion
 that a thousand pigments flare,*

*Lola's muse dreams
 with fervent fantasy,
 of this land and mine
 make a solitary homeland!«*
 – from *Cuba and Puerto Rico Are of One Bird the Two Wings*
 Lola Rodríguez de Tió (September 14, 1843 – November 10, 1924)

Manuel Rivera-Ortiz (b. 1968 in Puerto Rico) is a documentary photographer and writer. In 2009, he founded The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for Documentary Photography & Film. His photographs are held in many collections, including George Eastman Museum, Rochester, and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City.

Manuel Rivera-Ortiz photographs the poor and disenfranchised around the world. His photographic stories of hardship and hope in some of the world's poorest nations serve as a testament to the life he himself experienced growing up in backwater barrios of Guayama, Puerto Rico. Rivera-Ortiz has traveled many corners of the world from India to Kenya, Bolivia to Cuba, Thailand to Turkey and beyond. His major projects include the Mumbai slums Dharavi and Baiganwadi in India, the indigenous Aymara in the Andes and Altiplano regions in Bolivia and his breakout collection on tobacco workers of the Viñales Valley in Cuba. *Cuba* is his second monograph after *India. A Celebration of Life* (Kehrer 2015).

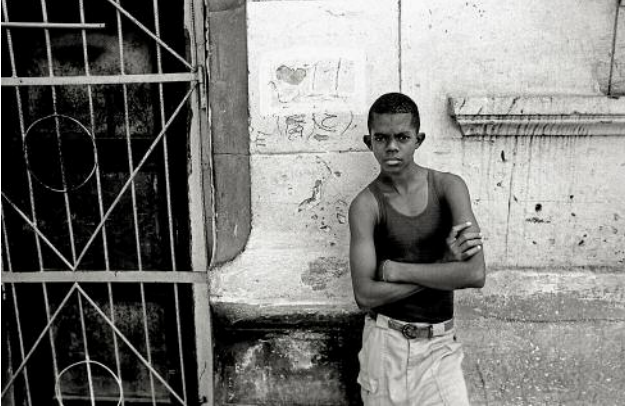
Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the books only. Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
 pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-18 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
 www.kehrerverlag.com

Press images



01_LA HABANA_ In the Cuban capital, most people are of African heritage.
© Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



02_LA HABANA_ Havana's Malecon stretches across the whole length of Avenida de Maceo's esplanade. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



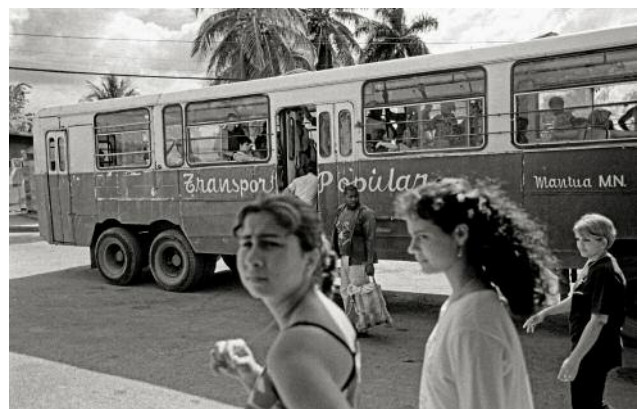
03_LA HABANA_ An indoor mall in Old Havana.
© Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



04_PINAR DEL RÍO_ Speeding car in Via Blanca heading east to Guanabo — a highway in the north that connects Havana to Matanzas
© Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



05_PINAR DEL RÍO_ Cuba's Vuelta Abajo region — Pinar del Rio — produces the world's most delicate tobacco leaves.
© Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



06_ARTEMISA — LA HABANA_ Bus service is at best unreliable in Cuba, with Viazul being the leading bus service covering the island's entirety
© Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



07_ ARTEMISA — LA HABANA_ Only one-third of Cuban land is arable and fertile, yielding upwards of two crops per year. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



08_ MAYABEQUE — MATANZAS “We Will Overcome in the Speediest Possible Time”; so reads a bill-board in the middle of nowhere en route to Mayabeque. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



09_ CIENFUEGOS_ On a meandering dusty road in Cienfuegos, peddlers wave me down to sell me garlic. Garlic is the second-most cultivated spice in Cuba. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



10_ SANCTI SPÍRITUS_ In 2002, shoe shining was ubiquitous in Cuba. Today's shoes don't need shining as much as old shoes. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



11_ CIEGO DE ÁVILA_ Ciego de Ávila Province devotes 730 hectares to tobacco harvesting. Five hundred of these hectares are dedicated to “tapado” (a shade-grown wrapper leaf technique). © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz



12_ CAMAGÜEY — LA HABANA_ An obligatory picture of an old American car. Kia, Hyundai, and Peugeot are the leading car importers to the Island. © Manuel Rivera-Ortiz