

**Nordic Light ICP & Studio A7 IPW presents:**

**Photographic Workshop with:**

**ALEX WEBB**

**REBECCA NORRIS WEBB**

**HAVANA, CUBA**

**JANUARY 22-29 OR JANUARY 29- FEBRUARY 5, 2012**

With Alex Webb & Rebecca Norris Webb

Nordic Light ICP & Studio A7/Anne-Lise Flavik: workshop producers

Trent Davis Bailey: workshop assistant and digital manager

First session: Sunday, January 22, 2012, to Saturday, January 28, 2012

Second session\*: Sunday, January 29, 2012, to Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012

\*If there is enough interest, we will offer a second week; participants will then have the option of taking both weeks.



Photo: Alex Webb

## **CUBA – seductive and richly coloured**

Beautiful and challenging, the island of Cuba resembles a crocodile lying in the Caribbean. It defies the senses, opens the heart and quietens the mind. Cuba is by far the largest, most populated island of all the Caribbean islands. Once the primary destination in the area, known also as the Antillean Pearl, it became a red star after a revolution brought the communist Fidel Castro to power.

Even though the Republic of Cuba is renowned for its fine rum and cigars, it has been off-limits to most citizens of the USA for the past 35 years. Canada has filled the gap in trade to a certain extent, receiving exports from Cuba that have doubled over the past four years, and today represent the tidy sum of more than USD 400 million.

The island of Cuba, home to some 12 million people, was visited by between one and two million tourists in 2010. Old Havana is slowly but surely being restored as an open-air museum. A variety of art and culture is to be found there.

## Havana, the world's cultural heritage

Havana comprises three city districts of which the old town is the most interesting. Old Havana is an impressive site and renovation of the magnificent old buildings is in full swing. The houses were built in the old colonialist style and the streets are narrow and paved with cobblestones. Grand façades, museums, churches and splendid squares remind us of earlier colonials, dictators and communist leaders.

Moving through the exhilarating streets of the old town, it is almost possible to catch a glimpse of Hemingway, sitting with his drink at the Hotel Ambos Mundos where he was a regular customer, and where he wrote many of his books. The inhabitants of Havana are hospitable and they are often found sitting outside, talking and observing passers-by. Cuba's distinctive music is heard everywhere.

Havana was once Spain's most important colonial town and trade centre. Much of the lustre disappeared with the revolution, and many buildings could certainly do with a coat of paint. However, it carries echoes of past greatness and the Spanish influence of days gone by. American cars roll through the streets, evoking memories of the influence the US had there in the 1950s. It is easy to imagine you are in the middle of a veteran car rally since many of the cars date from before the revolution. You can watch them on Malecón, an eight-kilometre-long beach promenade that is a gathering place for many Cubans.

The revolution still lives on in Cuba's proud people. You can also see clear signs of the golden age of the past in magnificent villas that now house foreign ambassadors or company directors.

See the Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square), where Castro has held many of his famous speeches, or visit one of the country's oldest and most famous cigar factories and allow yourself to be impressed by the skilful handwork cigar making entails

Dive into history at the Museo de la Revolución, with its art and exhibits of Che Guevara's personal possessions.

### THE SCHEDULE

There are two basic components of this class: the spontaneous act of photographing and intuitive editing.

The workshop will begin with Alex and Rebecca, a creative team who often edit projects and books together (including their joint book and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, exhibition, *Violet Isle: A Duet of Photographs from Cuba*) who will review each participant's work as a starting off point for a larger discussion about various photographic concerns, such as working in cultures other than one's own, how lens choice is an emotional choice, and the psychological implications of working in color vs. black and white.

By that first afternoon, photographers will be out working on their first assignment, which they will choose themselves. It may be a specific street or neighborhood in Havana; it could be about a specific plaza or beach; it could be about a form of transportation (buses, ferries, taxis, etc.); but it must be something that you're passionate enough to return to every day to photograph.

For the rest of the workshop, we will meet in the mornings and critique as a group each photographer's ongoing work. Throughout the workshop, we will try to build a coherent set of images for each photographer that will begin to represent his or her photographic stance or attitude toward the city of Havana. We will view this work as a group at the end of the workshop as a final celebration.

Besides photographing and editing each day, there will also be print and book demonstrations and an editing exercise. We will also touch on a variety of topics, including the process of photographing spontaneously and intuitively; how to photograph in cultures other than one's own; the relationship between images (such as the sequencing and juxtaposition of photographs); how to edit photographs intuitively; the practical realities of the magazine and art worlds; an introduction to working with a designer on a book, the difference between images in a book and images on the wall; and how long-term projects can evolve into books and exhibitions. Trent Davis Bailey will also be available to give one-on-one tutorials of Light Room (we suggest participants buy a copy of this software, or download a free 30-day trial a few weeks before the workshop begins).

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This 7-day workshop will be about street photography in Havana, using the camera to explore the world of this one-of-a-kind Caribbean city in a direct, spontaneous way.

It is a workshop that will emphasize the development of a unique, personal way of seeing and the development of an intuitive way of editing your photographs.

We will also discuss with participants over the week how to take their work to the next level. It's a workshop open to amateurs and professionals alike.

### A FINAL NOTE: BRING QUESTIONS

And please bring lots of questions to the workshop. The ultimate direction of the workshop will be influenced by the kinds of questions that you pose.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

The workshop will last for six whole days, and cost 2000 Euro. You can choose between two weeks: The first workshop will start Sunday evening 22nd of January at 1800 and finish in the evening of Sunday 29th. The second will start January 29th and finish in the evening of February 5.

The fee includes accommodation in an apartment in a singleroom.

Travel-tickets and meals are not included. We would, however, like to offer you a welcome dinner on Sunday 22nd.

We would very much like you to join us for dinner every evening, and to be able to do so in a restaurant, we will order set menu for every night. Individuals will be responsible for their own lunch.

## PAYMENTS

When you have returned the form to Anne Lise, we will ask you to pay a deposit of 400 Euro. The remaining fee will be splitted up in two more payments. 750 Euro will be due in October, and 850 Euro in the beginning of January. You will get a reminder and more information ahead of the payments.

After October 1<sup>st</sup> the contract is binding.

Do you want to join in? Or do you have any questions? Please give Anne Lise a call:

Anne Lise Flavik (producer) +47 92017130 or mail: [annelise@studioa7.no](mailto:annelise@studioa7.no) - [www.studioa7.no](http://www.studioa7.no) [www.nle.no](http://www.nle.no)

Please fill out the form and e-mail it to:

I hereby confirm that I want to sign up for the  
Studio A7 Photographic Workshop/Nordic Light ICP in Havna, Cuba 2012

Workshop no 1, January 22-29:

Workshop no 2, January 29- February 5:

After October 1.st. this contract is binding.

Name:

Address:

City:

Citycode:

Country:

Cellulare/phone:

Date of birth:

Occupation:

E-mail:

Send the money to:

Studio A7 International Photographic Workshop, Havna 2012

Po. Box 114, Sentrum

0102 Oslo

Norway

**Bankholders name: Anne Lise Flavik, Studio A7**

**Bank address: DNB NOR, 0021 Oslo, Norway**

**SWIFT: DNBANOKK, IBAN: N00797104274041**



Photo: Rebecca Norris Webb

### The teachers

Alex and Rebecca have taught workshops for 11 years around the world. In January 2009 Alex Webb, Rebecca Norris Webb, and Anne Lise had their first workshops together in Venice, and in March 2010 they arranged a workshop in Barcelona. This workshop became very successful so they decided to do it one more time in 2011 before hitting the other side of the world, Cuba in 2012. Anne Lise Flavik is a photographer, and has been producing workshops since 1995 all over Europe.

This year **Nordic Light International Centre of Photography** in Kristiansund, Norway will together with **Studio A7/Anne Lise Flavik** arrange the workshop in Cuba.

**Alex Webb** is best known for his vibrant and complex color work, especially from Latin America and the Caribbean. He has published nine books, including *Istanbul: City of a Hundred Names*, and his most recent, *The Suffering of Light: Thirty Years of Photographs* (Aperture/Thames and Hudson, UK Edition). Alex has exhibited at museums worldwide including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, and the Guggenheim Museum, NY. Alex became a full member of Magnum Photos in 1979. His work has appeared in *National Geographic*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Geo*, and other magazines. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007 for continuing working in Cuba, and the Premio Internacional de Fotografía Alcobendas in 2009.

For the past decade, **Rebecca Norris Webb** has been exploring the complicated relationship between people and the natural world. Originally a poet, she has shown her photographic work internationally, including at the George Eastman House Museum and Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York. Her first book, *The Glass Between Us*, was published in 2006, and her second book, *Violet Isle: A Duet of Photographs from Cuba* (with Alex Webb), was published in November 2009. Her photographs are in the collections of the George Eastman House Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. Rebecca's work has appeared in *Time*, *New Letters*, *Orion*, and other magazines. Her third book, *My Dakota*, will be published in 2012 by Radius, and exhibited at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Alex and Rebecca have a joint exhibition of their Cuba photographs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, which will run until January 2012, which will then travel to the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona, Florida. The couple is currently collaborating on a project in the U.S..

**All the best from Alex Webb, Rebecca Norris Webb and Anne Lise Flavik**