



TÓXICO: CULTURA CONTEMPORÁNEA

TÓXICO PROJECT ARRIVES IN CUBA

E X P O S I C I O N E S



Fototeca de Cuba
Mercaderes 307, Habana Vieja

LA OTRA MALETA MEXICANA

Exposición colectiva, un proyecto de Tóxico Cultura.

del 19 de noviembre al 12 de diciembre
inauguración: 6:30 pm
De martes a sábado de 9.00 am a 3.00pm

RAMIRO CHAVES, MARK POWELL, MEZLI VEGA, JOSÉ LUIS CUEVAS, MAGGIE DELGADO, SANTIAGO DA SILVA, CARLOS ÁLVAREZ MONTERO, ALINKA ECHEVERRÍA, LORENA MORENO, ANDRÉS PADILLA, CORINE VERMEULEN, ALFREDO MORENO, OMAR GAMEZ, GABRIELLA GÓMEZ-MONT, Y EL FOTÓGRAFO ANÓNIMO, DUEÑO ORIGINAL DE LA MALETA.

One morning, hunting the Mexico City flea markets, I came upon a small battered suitcase that caught my eye. When I opened it up I was surprised to find it full of old photographs, negatives, postcards and other personal mementos from the 30s and 40s. There was a whole story to be woven, image by image: I could tell that the original owner was both an amateur photographer and also an amateur physioculturist; I could easily imagine that this suitcase kept a certain (nameless) young man's favorite pictures, plus dozens of self-portraits in different stances and under different guises. I was mesmerized by all that was there to be inferred, and also wondered about how such a suitcase ended up in a stranger's hands. It made me think of the story of [The Mexican Suitcase](#)—a suitcase full of negatives of the Spanish war, shot by Capa et al—and also of the [suitcases that someone found](#) on the streets of Massachusetts, full of pictures of a ravaged Hiroshima after the war... both of them surprisingly full of important historical contents. And then there was this suitcase, this other Mexican suitcase, also full of images, of a very different nature. The contents are not historical, but it is history nonetheless: a personal history taken, kept, forgotten and lost and then sold. Because yes, I bought it with all it contained. And Tóxico then invited several talented visual artists to reinterpret the materials—or rather be inspired by them, to propose their own.

Today the suitcase flew into Cuba, ready to be shown at the Fototeca, in Habana. Besides, Alinka Echeverría—wonderful Mexican photographer, and one of the artists involved—will be working with several talented local photographer's: the suitcase will leave the island with a new artist-book, created collectively.

And so the suitcase will travel now, and keep on traveling, and it will acquire a will of its own. It will travel with what it contains, both the new and some of the old, making space for both chance and accident, and at every stop a new artist will be added to the list and at every gallery or museum the project will be presented in a different type of installation. And just like before: who knows where it will end up, and in whose hands.

Artists: Ramiro Chaves, Mark Powell, Mezli Vega, José Luis Cuevas, Carlos Casas, Maggie Delgado, Santiago da Silva, Carlos Álvarez Montero, Alinka Echeverría, Lorena Moreno, Andrés Padilla, Corine Vermeulen, Alfredo Moreno, Omar Gamez, Gabriella Gómez-Mont and the anonymous photographer, the original owner of the suitcase.

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(Muchas gracias a Alinka Echeverría, Lorena Moreno y Maggie Delgado por su ayuda. Y gracias a Nelson—curador de Noviembre fotográfico— por su invitación.)

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(Soon a website for la Maleta)

This was written by gabriella. Posted on Thursday, November 19, 2009, at 7:00 am.
Filed under [Multidisciplinary research](#), [Non-linear states](#), [Tóxico People](#), [Tóxico Projects](#), [Working in Mexico](#). Tagged [Alfredo Moreno](#), [Alinka Echeverría](#), [Andrés Padilla](#), [Carlos Álvarez Montero](#), [Carlos Casas](#), [Collective art project](#), [Corine Vermeulen](#), [Cuba](#), [Gabriella Gómez-Mont](#), [Jose Luis Cuevas](#), [La \(otra\) maleta mexicana](#), [Lorena Moreno](#), [Maggie Delgado](#), [Mark Powell](#), [Mezli Vega](#), [Omar Gamez](#), [Ramiro Chaves](#), [Santiago da Silva](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#). Follow comments here with the [RSS feed](#). [Post a comment](#) or leave a [trackback](#).

2 Comments



1. BA wrote:

Hola, encontré esta página y pensé que te gustaría echarle un vistazo: <http://www.suitcaseexhibit.org/indexhasflash.html>, acerca de unas maletas encontradas también. Muchos saludos.

Monday, November 23, 2009 at 12:49 pm | [Permalink](#)



2. [gabriella](#) wrote:

Increíble!
habrá una página próximamente sobre esta maleta, y sobre otras maletas, y definitivamente incluiremos esto, muchísimas gracias!!

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 1:05 pm | [Permalink](#)

One Trackback/Pingback

1. [Toxico Cultura › THE END](#) on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 3:47 pm

[...] is also part of La Otra Maleta Mexicana, a collective art project created by Tóxico that is now showing in Cuba) This was written by [...]

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