

# Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time  
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado  
November 2019 - January 2020  
[www.panamericanart.com](http://www.panamericanart.com)

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## 1996

### **Con permiso de la Historia** *With History's permission*

Censored by: Curator of the exhibition

Reason: "This work has aroused suspicion and as a curator, I will not sacrifice my project for any particular work".

This photographic series showed that many of the emblematic images of Fidel and the rebels in the Sierra Maestra were recreations made later, during the Sixties. To carry out this work, Toirac had the help of several friends and students of the Superior Institute of Art such as Jose R. Alonso, Tania Bruguera, Carlos Garaicoa, Dagoberto Rodríguez (Los Carpinteros) and Fernando Rodríguez.

In 2000 this work could finally be shown, at the Fototeca de Cuba, the same place where it had been censored four years before.

### **Learn more**

The starting point of the photographic essay is the iconography of the Revolution generated during the 60's. Such images had the main objective of registering and propagating the significance of historical facts. While any revolution constitutes a radical attempt to change reality, the iconography it generates aims to change our concepts of reality and history permanently, by perpetuating the moment.

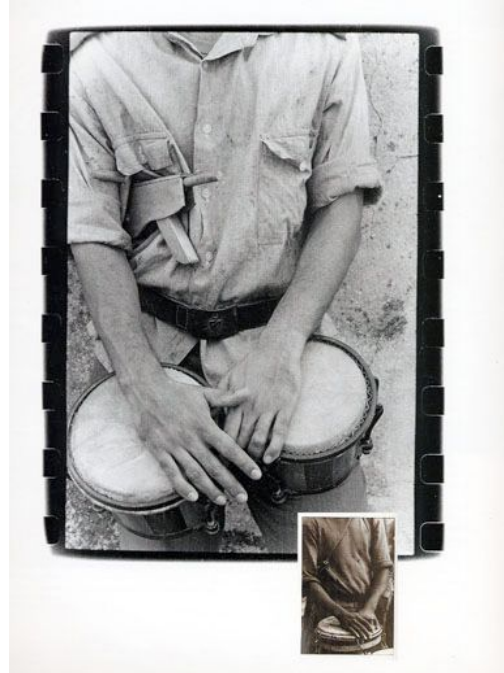
The idea of repetition is omnipresent today, and this is why the artist, together with a group of artists and friends, decided to re-stage and reconstruct some "historical" photos (which, too, had been staged years after the fact and taken by fashion photographers to embellish the appearance of the main character, Fidel Castro). Thus, by re-setting and re-photographing the ritual, the artist put in evidence that history had ceased to be linear, to become a cyclical and magical process.

### **References**



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