

Lena Konstantakou: Cuba is Alive
29th September – 03 October

List of photographs

1. 'An intimate moment', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
2. 'Baseball boy', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
3. 'Baseball', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
4. 'Boys in Trinidad', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
5. 'Carlito', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
744x542mm: £685 framed, 594x392mm: £600 unframed
Also available at 658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
6. 'Coffin building, Havana', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
7. 'Cuban family', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
744x562mm: £685 framed, 594x412mm: £600 unframed
Also available at 658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
8. 'Father and son playing', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
9. 'Freedom', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
10. 'Girl on the phone', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
11. 'Havana dreams', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
12. 'Havana vieja', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
13. 'Ice cream boy', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed

14. 'Innocence', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
15. 'No water again', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
16. 'Elegua, God of crossroads, beginnings and opportunity', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
17. 'Passion', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
18. 'Pinar del Rio', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
19. 'Reggaeton', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
20. 'Santa Ana, Trinidad', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
21. 'Playa Santa Maria, Havana', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
22. 'Soap opera 1', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
23. 'Soap opera 2', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x484mm: £600 framed, 508x334mm: £525 unframed
24. 'Splash', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
25. 'The chief', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
26. 'Tropical', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Silver print photographic archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed
27. 'Viñales', by Lena Konstantakou, Cuba, 2005. Edition of 25.
Fuji crystal archive paper
658x503mm: £600 framed, 508x353mm: £525 unframed

Fidel Castro photographs

28. 'Fidel Castro on the Caribbean island of Trinidad 1', by Ivan Potheary, 1958. ©Andrew Potheary. Edition of 10.
Lambda print, matte paper
Landscape image 540x413mm: £780 framed, 390x263mm on A3 paper: £750 unframed
29. 'Fidel Castro on the Caribbean island of Trinidad 2', by Ivan Potheary, 1958. ©Andrew Potheary. Edition of 10.
Lambda print, matte paper
Portrait image 540x417mm: £780 framed, 390x267mm on A3 paper: £750 unframed
30. 'Fidel Castro on the Caribbean island of Trinidad 3', by Ivan Potheary, 1958. ©Andrew Potheary. Edition of 10.
Lambda print, matte paper
Landscape image 540x413mm: £780 framed, 390x263mm on A3 paper: £750 unframed

Gallery at:



PRESS RELEASE

Cuba is Alive: Photography by Lena Konstantakou

Idea Generation gallery, 11 Chance Street, London E2 7JB

29th September – 03 October

Private view: 30th September, 6-8.30pm

A Greek-born photographer and graphic designer, Lena Konstantakou has enjoyed great success in both Greek and British media. Having had her work appear in a number of reputable publications, including The Sunday Telegraph, Taxidromos (Ta Nea newspaper), and the FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan official guide, Konstantakou felt stymied by the rigmarole of her daily commercial practice, and this exhibition marks her return to her original love of photography for the creative freedom it nurtures. As such, Cuba is Alive brings together a selection of photographs that forge an intimate and exuberant documentary of the country, in which Konstantakou who uses film and transparency film for all her images, feels she “both escaped and arrived.”

Konstantakou is preoccupied with ideas of passion, warmth and freedom, manifest most explicitly in her intimate portraits of the nation's citizens. Cuba's people are captured in the midst of their daily routine, and they seem refreshingly unperturbed by, almost unaware of, the artist's presence. This subtlety allows Konstantakou to capture her subjects in such intimate moments as a father and son playing a game across the bedroom tiles, an exhausted woman fetching water to bring home to her children, or a man lost in thought before silhouettes of the city. The diptych Soap Opera shows a boy burst into laughter, his face illuminated by the light of his family's favourite television show from the Fifties, a touching sequence that cements the artist's place as one and the same as her subjects.

Cuban Family is one of the show's most intriguing works, a family portrait in which Konstantakou's camera exists as a secondary lens. A father gathers his children on a beach in order to photograph this tender family event for posterity. Konstantakou's camera is not far behind, however, documenting the sentimental moment in a scene that seems far from contemporary. The timeless nature evoked by the artist's employment of black and white film is echoed in the children's beach attire, rich with echoes of the past and by proxy the struggles through which the country has battled. The sole giveaway that indicates this photo is contemporary rather than archival, is the digital camera held aloft by the proud father, but even this cannot quite shake the notion that we are instead privy to a historical document from the Sixties. The children boldly pose for the photograph, exhibiting the determination, resilience, and energy they would have inherited from generations before. It is this sense of quiet patriotism that exudes throughout these photographs, through both the nation's people, and its hot and sticky landscapes, each of which evinces the stillness that comes only in the aftermath of a tropical storm.

Cleverly amplified by the inclusion of Ivan Potheary's (father of photographer Andrew) never-before-seen candid shots of Fidel Castro at an airport on the island of Trinidad c.1958, Cuba is Alive overwhelms the habit of the media for showing only headline-stealing images of Cuban riots, press conferences, and protests. In so doing, Konstantakou succeeds in documenting a side of the nation that is often overlooked by the very industry in which the artist has made her name.

Cuba is Alive at Idea Generation Gallery

11 Chance Street, E2 7JB (Just off Redchurch Street, Shoreditch High Street)

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 10am - 6pm

Weekends 12pm - 5pm

Visit www.ideageneration.co.uk or www.lenakonstantakou.com for more information.