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Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



"José Martí: Images of Memory and Mourning"

Book Presentation by Emilio Bejel

March 2, 2013 | 5:00 PM | Books & Books, Coral Gables, Fl.
265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33174

A critical study of visual representations of José Martí—the National Hero of Cuba—and the discourses of power that make it possible for Martí's images to be perceived as icons today. Bejel argues that an observer of Martí's icons who is immersed in the Cuban national narrative experiences a retrospective reconstruction of those images by means of ideologically formed national discourses of power. Also, the obsessive reproduction of Martí's icons signals a sense of unresolved mourning for the loss of the martyr-hero. But instead of attempting to forget Martí (an impossible and undesirable objective), Bejel concludes that the utopian impulse of his memory should serve to resist mourning and to visualize new forms of creative re-significations of Martí and, by extension, the nation.

Emilio Bejel, Ph. D., is a professor of Latin American Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California at Davis. He received his B.A. from the University of Miami, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish and Spanish American Literature from Florida State University. He has published several books of literary and cultural criticism, among them *Literatura de Nuestra América*, *La subversión de la semiótica*, *José Lezama Lima, Poet of the Image*, and *Gay Cuban Nation*; as well as several poetry collections. He has also published three versions of an autobiographical narrative: *The Write Way Home. A Cuban-American Story*, *El horizonte de mi piel*, and *O Horizonte da Minha Pele*. His latest scholarly book, *José Martí: Images of Memory and Mourning*, was published in September 2012.

Event is free and open to the public. For additional information and to RSVP call CRI at (305) 348-1991.

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