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# Revolutionary Horizons: Art and Polemics in 1950s Cuba

Author Abigail McEwen

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# Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## Revolutionary Horizons: Art and Polemics in 1950s Cuba Book Presentation by Author Abigail McEwen

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 | 7:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

Modernism in Havana reached its climax during the turbulent years of the 1950s as a generation of artists took up abstraction as a means to advance artistic and political goals in the name of *Cuba Libre*. During a decade of insurrection and, ultimately, revolution, abstract art signaled the country's cultural worldliness and its purchase within the international avant-garde. This pioneering book offers the first in-depth examination of Cuban art during that time, following the intersecting trajectories of the artist groups *Los Once* and *Los Diez* against a dramatic backdrop of modernization and armed rebellion. Abigail McEwen explores the activities of a constellation of artists and writers invested in the ideological promises of abstraction, and reflects on art's capacity to effect radical social change. Featuring previously unpublished artworks, new archival research, and extensive primary sources, this remarkable volume excavates a rich cultural history with links to the development of abstraction in Europe and the Americas.

**Dr. Abigail McEwen** is Associate Professor of Latin American Art History at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her areas of research and teaching interest span the modern Americas, with an emphasis on the art of twentieth-century Cuba and Puerto Rico, the transnational history of abstraction, and the postwar avant-garde. She received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. She is now beginning research on a new book, titled *Excentric Bodies: Exodus and Erotics in Post-Revolutionary Cuban Art*, which considers a range of psychic and emotional responsiveness in art produced both in exile and on the island during the 1960s and 1970s.

**This event is free and open to the public.**

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu)