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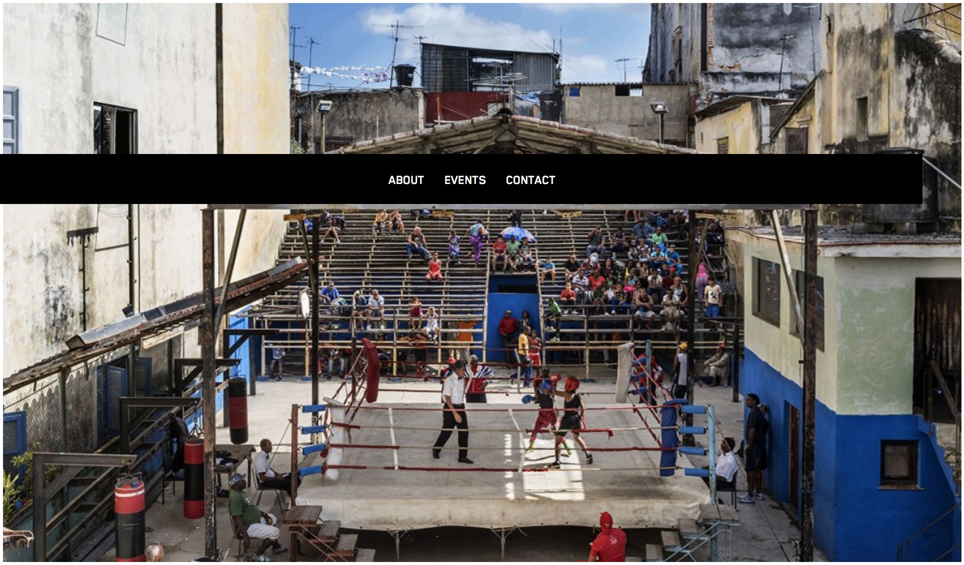

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In pictures: Carl De Keyzer captures the decline of Cuban communism

Pictures of a Cuba in flux

Award winning documentary photographer Carl De Keyzer captures a Cuba in flux with his new book, "Cuba, La Lucha".

Award winning documentary photographer Carl De Keyzer is renowned for his work that captured the collapse of the Soviet Union; his book ‘Homo Sovieticus’, which documented the decline of the USSR, was presented in Amsterdam on November 9th 1989, the day the Berlin wall fell.

His latest book, “Cuba, La Lucha” captures Cuba in a state of flux, as the country starts to open up to foreign tourism and investment, and relations

Posted Sunday 27th March, 2016
Text by Michael Segalov
Photography © Carl de Keyzer/Magnum Photos

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with the United States start to thaw. The book launch happened just one week before Obama visited the island, and the first concert there by The Rolling Stones. “Got lucky I guess, on both occasions”, Carl says.

Before President Obama’s speech inviting the relaxation of the 56-year embargo, Carl de Keyzer had already begun to explore the development of a Cuba’s market economy, and the consequence of this change on the population. The images from his new book *Cuba, La Lucha,* capture the dignity and charisma of Cubans struggling to survive.

Japan
Feliz

Carl de Keyzer / Magnum Photos

Through views of crumbling buildings, once can imagine the splendour of a bygone and glorious era, as well as an ambitious population ready to open a new chapter in its history. Carl De Keyzer captures the ambivalence of a changing country, torn between the desire to preserve its traditions and the desire to improve its economy. He seizes images of the end of a bankrupt Utopia, which has plunged its population into a deep identity conflict, divided by the lure of dazzling economic growth promised by the market and fears of consumerist excesses on its traditional culture.

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Cuba, La Lucha is published by Lannoo (2016) with a text written by Gabriela Salgado. More info here.

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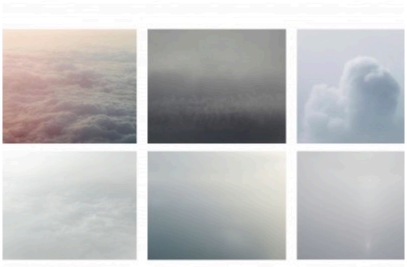

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