Walt Bartman
in partnership with
the Florida Keys TREE Institute
presents
“People to People” Cultural Trip to Cuba
Painting Workshop
Non painters welcome!
March 24- April 1, 2016 - 8 days/8 nights

Walter Bartman is founder and director of the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Maryland, the Griffin Art Center, Frederick, Maryland and the Hummingbird Cottage Art Centre, Elbow Cay, Bahamas. He is recognized internationally as an important artist. He has been featured on CBS’s Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood and in the New York Times. He is listed among the famous artists in the Hirshhorn Museum’s Library Collection. The National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts named him as one of the United States outstanding educators. Walt Bartman’s career spans forty years. As a teacher, he has taught over ten thousand students in his lifetime. As an artist, his work can be found in many private and public collections. He maintains studios in Tilghman Island, Glen Echo and Braddock Heights, Maryland. Walt Bartman has an MFA in painting from American University. He received a Fulbright Grant to study in Belgium and Holland. He began his career in 1971 and has traveled the world giving workshops in Italy, Greece, France, Spain, England, Ireland, Slovakia, Hungary, Egypt, Bahamas, Mexico and Costa Rica. His favorite workshop sites in this country are Monterey, California, Sedona, Arizona, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Stonington, Maine and Tilghman Island, Maryland, where he maintains a studio on the Chesapeake Bay. Walt brings a wealth of information and shares his expertise on the subject of painting with his students. More info: www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-964-1897.
We invite you to experience Cuba through a humanitarian exchange program by our 501-c-3, nonprofit organization. Our experienced, US representative is with you the entire trip. Share a true “People to People” exchange of culture and the environment. This exceptional program will include visiting the magical UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Biospheres of Vinales Valley, Pinar del Rio, and remarkable Havana. While there, you will learn about the gardens, environment, art, music, architecture, and the people living in these historical areas while having an opportunity to personally interface with the people of this region.

The package includes: a complimentary conference call briefing 4 weeks prior to the journey, special travel visa, approved license, room in Miami the night before, round trip non-stop charter air service direct Miami-Havana, private air-conditioned motor coach, medical insurance, hotels, luggage handling, transfers, permits, entry fees, English speaking guide, bottled water daily, tips and meals for those stated on the itinerary. (7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 5 dinners) We take care of obtaining all of your documents, travel plans and guide you through the whole process!

We travel on a US Department of Treasury approved license and visa. There are a limited number of seats available for this rare chance to visit this distinctive island. (SEE ITINERARY page 4 & 5)

Price:

$4,399.00 per person double occupancy - Not included: some meals, personal tips, Cuba departure tax of $30.00 & baggage fees charged in Miami.

(Add $450.00 for single supplemental) **limited rooms available**

******Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available upon request only thru our representative.******

To sign up: send in the application with a $500.00 deposit per space. We can only reserve a space with a deposit. Questions? Contact us: info@fktreeinstitute.org  866-355-8733    866- FLK- TREE
Trip Application Form for March 24- April 1, 2016 trip

Instructions: In order to make your reservation and hold a space, fill out the trip application below and send a non-binding $500.00 deposit per person. (Checks only please.) MARK YOUR CHECK MEMO- Bartman - March 2016 trip.” The check is to be made out to: Florida Keys TREE Institute (a 501 c-3 non-profit organization)

Mail your deposit check and the application form to:
FK TREE Institute - 1850 SW 8th St., Suite 204 A, Miami, FL 33135.
Questions? Contact: info@fktreeinstitute.org 866- 355-8733 866-FLK- TREE

Name _____________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
Cell Phone ________________________   email ______________________________________
If your email is not clearly spelled, we cannot contact you!!!

Single_____      ($500.00 deposit)

Double _____ Rooming with _________________________________ ($1,000.00 deposit)

Roommate Name ______________________________________
Roommate cell phone ______________   email _______________________________________

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Other notes:

We take care of getting your documentation, visas and all reservations starting in Miami. You are responsible for getting to Miami. The trip deposit is refundable up until Nov 15, 2015. We will confirm receipt of your deposit. On or about October 15, we will email you a registration packet and instructions which will be due with final payment by Nov 15, 2015. It will also include information for optional trip cancellation/ interruption insurance. The package includes medical coverage while in Cuba. About one month prior to the trip, we will have a required toll free conference call to go over all the information for traveling to Cuba. No inoculations are required.
Itinerary

Night before - March 24 - Check into your Miami Hotel and welcome intro session with Walt Bartman.

Day 1 - March 25
Check-in for flight, depart Miami for Jose Marti Airport. Upon arrival, our bus will be waiting for our departure to the lush botanical province of Pinar del Rio and Vinales Valley. Check into our hotel located on the canyon rim. After settling in, gather for a welcome cocktail reception, with introduction and information by our guide. We will have a private dinner and entertainment on the terrace. Enjoy the spectacular scenery from our hotel. Overnight Los Jasmines Hotel (D).

Day 2 - March 26
Early morning sunrise viewing from the hotel should not be missed. After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a morning excursion to this area of Pinar del Rio province - renowned for its scenic beauty, fertile tobacco plantations, and unusual mogotes (enormous flat top limestone outcroppings) and mountains that contain huge caves and underground river networks. Our walk through Vinales National Park (designated as a UNESCO biosphere) boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery in the entire country. Stop at typical tobacco farm to learn about the daily life of Cuban families in this region, as well as how they grow and harvest tobacco for the cigar industry. There will be sketching time. Head back to our hotel for lunch and painting session on the terrace. Dinner will be at a private tobacco farmer’s home. After dinner enjoy a visit to the renown Casa de Musica. Overnight Los Jasmines. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - March 27
After breakfast at the hotel, there will be a morning painting session in town. Optional horseback trip or birding (nature walk) will be available for non painters. We will head to another area of the valley for lunch. Lunch will be held at El Palenque de los Cimarones with musical entertainment (nice location to be introduced to Santería, the Afro-Cuban religion and its origins). We will explore La Cueva del Indio, part of it by boat and will have a quick photo stop at the country’s largest painted Mural. Our next stop will be a visit to a private botanical garden owned by the same family for over 100 years. Dinner will be at the private home of a young Cuban family. Learn about the changes that are happening for the people as they are now allowed to start their own enterprises. Overnight Los Jasmines (B, L D)

Day 4 - March 28
After breakfast at the hotel and early checkout, we depart for our extensive visit to the Soroa Orchid Garden, developed and nurtured by the University of Pinar del Rio in the mountain range of Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere. We will stop for lunch at a private finca. Then, we will continue towards Havana where we will enter the UNESCO Heritage City of Old Havana. There will be an extensive walking tour through cobblestone streets to view the magnificent architecture and many courtyard gardens. Check into our Havana Hotel and have Dinner (B, L, D).
Day 5 - March 29

**Breakfast at the hotel.** There will be a *morning rooftop painting session*. Then, we will head to the Hemingway Finca, where Ernest Hemingway created a lush arboretum of native and tropical fruit trees. There will be sketching time at this location. Then visit a working *organic farm* where we will have lunch. After lunch, we will then venture back to the city for a *painting session* or visit to the San Jose arts and crafts market. Gather for Dinner on your own, then a special evening of entertainment, followed by a walk up Opisbo Street. *(B, L)*

Day 6 - March 30

**After breakfast**, there will be a morning *painting session*. Non-painters can visit the Capitolio. We will then board our motor coach for a stop at the historic Hotel National for a private tour of the building and gardens. The hotel offers breathtaking views overlooking the famous Malecon and Atlantic Ocean. Then, break for lunch. After lunch, we will visit private homes and studios of artists. We will take a trip to the famous Fuster Mosaic City. Fuster is known as the “Picasso” of Cuba. Learn how he kept his neighborhood full of hope and energy during the Special Period. Dinner will be at a private paladar on your own. Optional entertainment: Buena Vista Social Club *(B,L)*

Day 7 - March 31

**Breakfast at the hotel.** After breakfast, enjoy a personalized visit with Cubans in the National Museum of Fine Arts, then a special surprise before lunch. Lunch is on your own with *painting session* to follow. For non-painters, we will offer several options, including – the Prado Art Show, Cigar Factory, or Presidential Palace & Revolution Museum. The afternoon can be spent visiting the many cultural houses, galleries, smaller museums, churches, and convents there. Our guide will be available to help you explore. In the evening, we enjoy a ride to Miramar and dinner suspense. **OPTIONAL:** 10:00PM SHOW AT THE TROPICANA, or, other entertainment that might be available that night. Our guide will arrange for tickets *(B,D)*

Day 8 – April 1

**Breakfast at the hotel.** Depending on the flight return, there will be a *morning painting session*. Lunch is on your own. Check-out and depart hotel for airport. *(B)*
Havana

Havana was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century. Due to its strategic location, it served as a springboard for the Spanish conquest of the continent, becoming a stopping point for the treasure laden Spanish Galleons on the crossing between the New World and the Old World. King Philip II of Spain granted Havana the title of City in 1592. Walls, as well as forts, were built to protect the old city. The sinking of the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana's harbor in 1898 was the immediate cause of the Spanish-American War. The 20th century began with Havana, and therefore Cuba, under occupation by the United States. The US occupation officially ended when Tomás Estrada Palma, first president of Cuba, took office on 20 May 1902. During the Chicken Period, from 1902 to 1959, the city saw a new era of development. Cuba recovered from the devastation of war to become a well-off country, with the third largest middle class in the hemisphere. Apartment buildings to accommodate the new middle class, as well as mansions for the Cuban tycoons, were built at a fast pace. Numerous luxury hotels, casinos and nightclubs were constructed during the 1930s to serve Havana's burgeoning tourist industry.

In the 1930s, organized crime characters were not unaware of Havana's nightclub and casino life, and they made their inroads in the city. Santo Trafficante, Jr. took the roulette wheel at the Sans Souci Casino, Meyer Lansky directed the Hotel Habana Riviera, with Lucky Luciano at the Hotel Nacional Casino. At the time, Havana became an exotic capital of appeal and numerous activities ranging from marinas, grand prix car racing, musical shows and parks. Havana achieved the title of being the Latin American city with the biggest middle class population per-capita, simultaneously accompanied by gambling and corruption where gangsters and stars were known to mix socially. During this era, Havana was generally producing more revenue than Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1958, about 300,000 American tourists visited the city.

After the revolution of 1959, the new regime promised to improve social services, public housing, and official buildings. Nevertheless, shortages that affected Cuba after Castro's abrupt expropriation of all private property and industry under a strong communist model backed by the Soviet Union followed by the U.S. embargo, hit Havana especially hard. By 1966-68, the Cuban government had nationalized all privately owned business entities in Cuba, down to "certain kinds of small retail forms of commerce". There was a severe economic downturn after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. With it, subsidies ended, losing billions of dollars which the Soviet Union gave the Cuban government, with many believing Havana's Soviet-backed regime would soon vanish, as happened to the Soviet satellite states of Eastern Europe. However, contrary to the Soviet satellite states of Eastern Europe, Havana's communist regime prevailed during the 1990s. After many years of prohibition, the communist government increasingly turned to tourism for new financial revenue and has allowed foreign investors to build new hotels and develop the hospitality industry. In Old Havana, effort has also gone into rebuilding for tourist purposes, and many of the streets and squares have been rehabilitated, with much renovation going on today. Historical sites, art, architect and music fill the city streets today. The recent changes by the Cuban government have allowed people to own their homes and start businesses, creating new energy and vibrancy.