



**JRB ART**  
**AT THE ELMS**  
Paseo Arts District

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## CATHERINE ADAMS

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A reminder to visit the gallery! Catherine Adams' amazing works from her series "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development: Havana Cuba," is currently being featured in our show "Photography and Place: Fragments of the World!"

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**Project Statement** - Cuba has long represented a radically different version of a North American dream from that of the United States - and that dream now undergoes a dramatic transformation. In "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development: Havana Cuba," I document the development taking place in Havana, the country's economic, cultural, and ideological capital, in April 2017, prior to the effects of Hurricane Harvey later that year.

My photographs focus on people and places precariously situated on the economic and social edge of touristic Old Havana or located within Central Havana, a traditionally proletariat district now undergoing large-scale structural and socio-economical change. Development had been progressing speedily in the opening of 2017. Individual homes and small buildings were being remodeled into *casas particulares*, homes permitted by the government to host foreigners as private enterprises. Some properties appear already abandoned, but people live in the crumbling hulks, by now stripped of marble detailing and once-exquisite ceramic tiles. Even stairs had all but disintegrated. Signs announcing *Se vende* cropped up on every block of the famed seaboard walkway. Many were regal establishments. What will future regality look like? Where do the inhabitants go?



Catherine Adams, "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development #5 (San Lazaro), Havana, Cuba," 2017, Chromogenic Print, 36 x 24 in., \$1,900

"Building crumble every day in Havana, with most left standing as-is. People from the neighborhood, and from outside it, come in when a building is on the edge of collapse. They strip the premises right down to sheering off the face. What is left hovers between dilapidation and a state of having been cleansed. It is frighteningly charming to an eye groomed in neoclassical ruin paintings of Pompeii and other mythic sites."



Catherine Adams, "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development 7.2 (Malecon), Havana, Cuba," 2017, Chromogenic Print, 36 x 24 in., \$1,900

"Inside these rotting structures of Havana, including one with missing walls, pitted floors, and ceilings open to the elements, communities live. They play music, they laugh here. Kids play. When I climb to the second floor of the building once decorated throughout with mosaic-paintings of Venice, a young boy call into an apartment. Children pour out. They dance, they pose, they scream and giggle."



Catherine Adams, "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development, Building 3.5 (La Habana Vieja), Havana Cuba," 2017, Archival Pigment Print, 10 x 8 in., \$500

"In neo-classical ruin paintings, the bathing springs often abuts the beautiful architectural remnant."



Catherine Adams, "The Acute Charm of Ruin & Development, Building 10.1 (Malecon), Havana Cuba," 2017, Archival Pigment Print, 10 x 8 in., \$500

"A hand-crafted lamp of the Eiffel Tower. Paris is where the artist, living in a dilapidated mansion of the Malecon, dreams of being."



Catherine Adams, "Escuela Nacional Cubana de Ballet No. 12, Havana Cuba," 2017, Archival Pigment Print, 10 x 8 in., \$500

"In the shadowy underbelly of a staircase, the memory of an elegant bourgeois past survives."

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