



# Weekend in Havana

## An American Photographer in the Forbidden City

**Robert A. McCabe**

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Both Cuba and the United States have strict rules governing photographic activity in Cuba. The U.S. carefully delineates what kinds of photographic undertakings are forbidden, while Cuba has, in the past, imprisoned photographers for giving a "distorted image of Cuban reality." Nevertheless, photographer Robert A. McCabe managed to satisfy the many regulations, and spent four eventful days in Havana, taking pictures of a people rarely seen by the rest of the world.

**Weekend in Havana** celebrates Havana's citizens in a compilation of moving and thought-provoking photographs, 97 in total and all in full colour. From images of buildings which combine classical influences with splashes of vibrant colour to intimate portraits of the people, the book's presentation of Havana is fresh and realistic. The reader will meet a range of closely observed personalities, such as a policeman patrolling in a shabby police car, an expression of boredom and frustration flitting across his face; women young and old labelling bottles of rum in a factory; and children in both the red school uniforms of the Communist regime and in everyday American clothing. Introductions by Robert A. McCabe and Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, who has published widely on the history of photography, cover such topics as the difficulties facing photographers in Cuba, the differences between popular conceptions of Cuba and its reality, and the poverty, politics, and flux between old and new which mark Havana today. **Weekend in Havana** is a trilingual edition featuring English, Spanish, and Greek, making the book uniquely accessible.

**Robert A. McCabe** was born in Chicago in 1934. He started taking photographs in 1939 with a Kodak Brownie given to him by his father, who published a tabloid newspaper in New York. His work is featured in a permanent exhibition at the Greek consulate in Boston, MA. McCabe's fifteen published photo books include the Abbeville titles *Mykonos*, *Mycenae: From Myth to History*, *The Ramble in Central Park: A Wilderness West of Fifth*, and *Three Days in Havana*.