



Exhibition of Cuban posters, University of Quebec at Montreal, 1996

**Photography itself** is rapidly growing as a medium for cultural exchange between our two countries. The greatest portrait photographer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Yousuf Karsh, made his home in Ottawa. Karsh took one of his best loved portraits - of Ernest Hemingway - at Hemingway's Finca Vigía outside Havana in 1957. Karsh returned to Cuba in July 1971 and waited expectantly for a week at the Canadian Official Residence until, late one night, the moment came to capture his impression of Fidel Castro. Karsh's private collection has also yielded two photos taken in Cuba showing Karsh himself with each of these famous men.

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**In more recent times**, the colour and light of Havana has proven a natural attraction for Canadian photographers of all styles. Collaboration between Canadians

and Cubans was celebrated in a reciprocal show curated by Toronto artist Andrew Danson. Photographs by Cuban photographers were shown in Toronto's Hart House in October 2000 and the work of their Canadian counterparts was exhibited at the Fototeca in Havana in April 2001. Danson's initiative provided the genesis for this exhibition.



Canadian photographer Elaine Ling and Ambassador Michael Small, Fototeca de Cuba, 2001