



CUBAN CULTURAL VENTURES

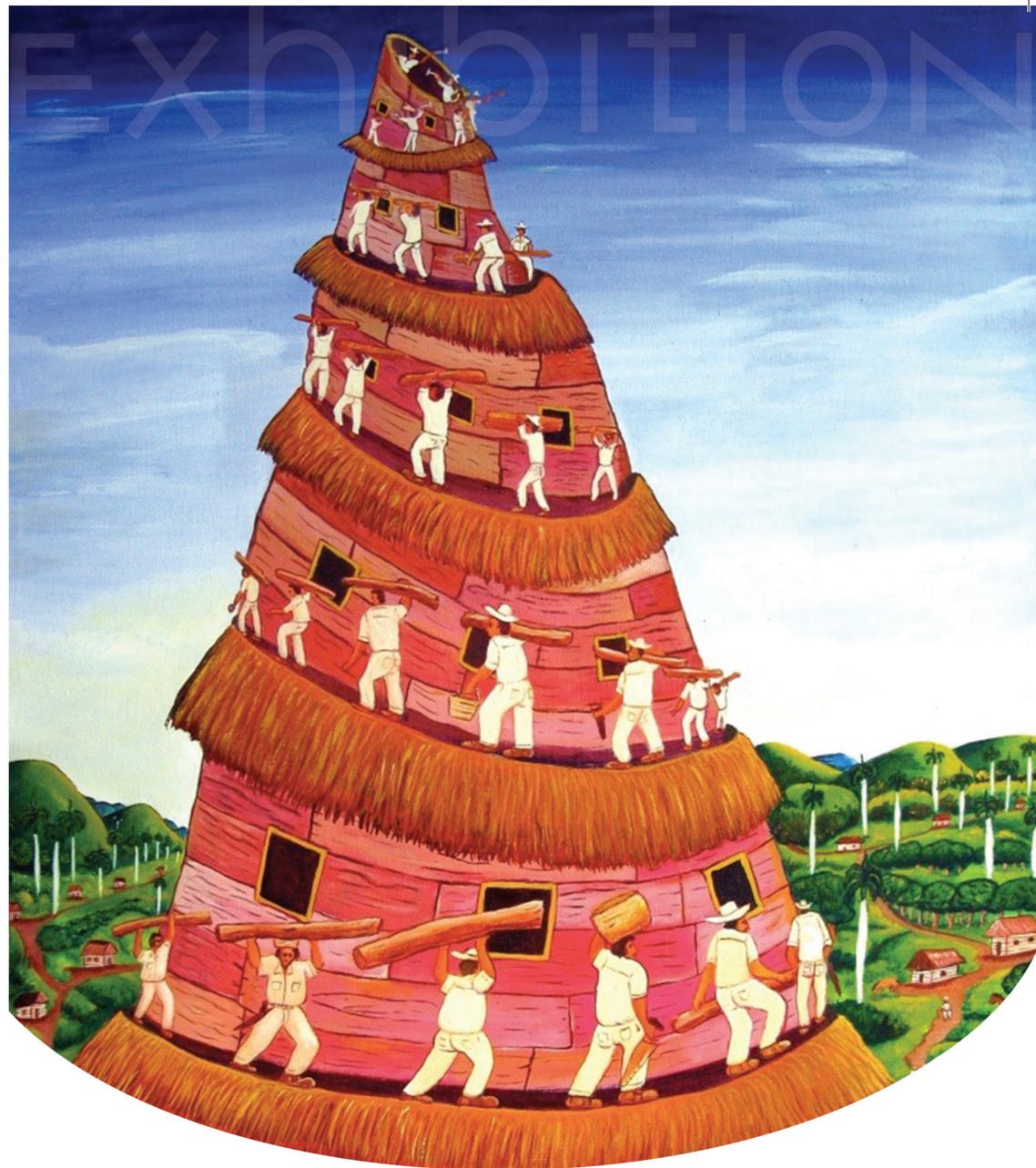
A BOOST FOR CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CUBA AND THE NETHERLANDS

The foundation Cuban Cultural Ventures (CCV) facilitates cultural cooperation between Cuba and The Netherlands. We realize projects between Cuban and Dutch partners, sell and rent Cuban art and offer Cuban artists support in developing their international network.

CCV has a broad network in Cuba. Our vision makes us tick: international exchange of culture, knowledge and ideas leads to mutual understanding and enriches both Cuban and Dutch societies.

Dutch tax authorities recognize CCV as a cultural institution for public benefit (cultural ANBI). Individuals subject to income tax may deduct their gifts 1.25 times from their income tax and companies may deduct their gifts 1.5 times from their corporate income tax.

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La Biblia Campesina

Julio Breff





Julio Breff was born in Cuba in 1953. Since 1992 he dedicates himself to painting. His work was shown many times in Cuba. Outside Cuba, his work was shown in the United States, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, Mozambique, Argentina, France, Spain and Italy.

Julio Breff Guilarte

Through his eccentric and colorful artworks Cuban painter Julio Breff gives the observer a glance into Cuban daily life. Breff's work contains both the humour and friendly atmosphere so overwhelmingly present in Cuba. But his art challenges as well as encourages spectators to think. Julio Breff Guilarte is self-taught. In the village where he grew up, when yet a child, he already felt strongly the need for artistic activity. He drew and painted everything he saw in his surroundings without anybody ever teaching him how to do it. A naive painter who never attended art academy, who taught himself everything, who at the end was allowed a membership in the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and who held many exhibitions in and outside of Cuba. Julio Breff is a thinker and a dreamer. His paintings reflect his rural upbringing as well as daily Cuban life and his longing for development.

His amazing imagination led Cuban art critics to proclaim him the professor of the fantasy; the inventor of the craziest dreams and the most beautiful forms of paradise. Breff combines his fantasy with emotions and social issues. In his series La Biblia Campesina (Peasant Bible) he unites these aspects in an unparalleled way. An observant spectator will be rewarded. Breff's work almost always starts with a picture of a real life situation. This time it was his desire to learn English. Of course Breff, as a self-taught artist, searched a way to learn the new language by himself. He found an English Bible and started to read and study this book. By doing so, he did not just learn the language, but also fell under the spell of the Biblical stories. Breff's ingenious mind made him start painting. Doing so little by little the Biblical stories started to take place on Cuban soil, the main characters as well changed and the Biblical issues were mixed with Cuban themes. In Breff's art the Cuban peasant is always omnipresent. Breff sees the farmer as a protagonist. It could be the key player in society, but in any case the farmer is the actor in his paintings. Breff portrays the habitat of his childhood. Often family members and neighbours show up in his paintings and often his art deals with their struggles, their dreams and their desires. As if he is mixing colours, Breff mingles these issues with Biblical and, which really are universal themes like love, hate, pain, confidence, betrayal, perseverance, mistakes and fixing the problems again. In short: the eternal battle and the eternal desire to make things better. The result is La Biblia Campesina; a colorful mixture of different traditions, histories and cultures.

