

Fidel: Planting and Sun

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Fidel is giant, infinite, he lives in a thousand ways among us. Fidel remains in the present of Cuba, which is essentially his work and, absolutely, his legacy.

We spoke with some Cuban creators from several generations, about the validity and imprint of the eternal leader of the Cuban Revolution in Cuba's art and culture.

From the native core of our culture comes the image of Fidel to the troubadour who has sung so much to him, Raúl Torres repeats out aloud in bold letters: «I am looking at a poet in **Palmas y Cañas**, (a show I have watched since I was a child) and while he seeks inspiration and sings his tune images of Fidel pop in the screen, Fidel smiling, Fidel thinking, listening, speaking ... and the poet's verses are mixed with others that I murmur trying to make them rhyme and I am surprised inspiring myself in our numen, our genuine bearer of dignities, our soul savior, our maker of brilliant beings that keep him in their hearts and in the end I could not finish the verse, without finding a decent rhyme for the word , THANKS ... Commander THANKS ».

The young instrumentalist and singer Maylín Quintana, said: «One of the legacies of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, is the access to culture as a human right over elites

and excluding views. In fact, the first revolutionary law in the field of culture was signed by Fidel. At the triumph of the Revolution, he established the foundation of the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC), an institution whose main event remains as one of the most prestigious in the continent: the International New Latin American Film Festival».

For Arnaldo Rodríguez, bassist, singer and Director of Talisman Band: «one of Fidel's most important concepts about Culture was the massification of Art. To have the vision-intention that masses could have access to culture as a right and not as the exclusive privilege of those who have money, the creation of a national system of artistic education for professional training in all art manifestations.

"And I wonder. Is there anything more revolutionary, in the renovating sense of the word, than creating and shaping the concept of Art Instructor? In every neighborhood, every community, every mountain or city, a professional who contributes to appreciate art, to revitalize the collective life, to guide future artists, is a phenomenal idea!

«On the other hand, Fidel always promoted the formation of a society with individuals who will reach a basic level of culture in their integral perception, beyond the artistic fact. That anyone regardless being a worker, intellectual, housewife, student, learn to discern, assess, even make a criticism... is really impressive. And there you see it in the popular debates that people do when contests and artistic competitions are held ... they speak very accurate criteria.

«Cuba had a political and social revolution in 1959, but there was also a cultural revolution with all this I tell you, and much more... another example: The easy access of masses to great shows, concerts, cultural fairs, large artistic events, and this is very important, because although Cubans pay little to enter a theater, keeping and sustaining the infrastructure of Culture is highly expensive. And Fidel always insisted on the need to sustain the economy of culture, as an effort by the State not to lose the essence that it's a public benefit ».

Amanda Sofía Perelló, a student at the Manuel Saumel music school, has very clear her heritage: «Fidel's greatest legacy is that thanks to him we have our art schools for free. Which makes it easier for us to have access to the art world since we don't have the concern of whether our parents can afford our studies. And also the love and fidelity to the country, feelings that we can express through our easiest means: art, in our case music ».

And Rubén Darío Salazar Taquechel, Director of the National Guiñol and the Las Estaciones Theater Company, also begins to thank for the planting: «The first thing that Cuban art and

culture will have to thank Fidel and the Revolution forever is the creation of Art schools A quarry for the future. Many of those who shine today with their work on the island and the world, were trained there, for free and with the most prestigious teachers. Books, artistic groups, museums, culture houses, are part of the national confirmation project, without chauvinism, but in dialogue with the art and thoughts of the planet. I feel proud of my homeland, my cultured and popular people. Fidel, as faithful as his own name, helped to make this real and I could walk everywhere with the name of Cuba on my chest like a sun ».
