

**30**  
YEARS

# FOTOSEPTIEMBRE

2024 MONOGRAPH



## LEYSIS QUESADA VERA *INSTANCIAS*

CURATED BY MICHAEL MEHL

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FOTOSEPTIEMBRE 2024 MONOGRAPH

## INSTANCIAS

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Leysis Quesada Vera was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, and currently lives in Havana. She has a degree in English and is a self-taught photographer. She is a member of UNEAC (Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba), from which she received a Tito Alvarez Creative Grant in 2011. She was nominated for the Magnum Emergency Funds Grant in 2016; received a scholarship from the Foundation for a Civil Society for Fotofest in 2016; was featured in the exhibit *Cuba Is* at the Annenberg Space For Photography in 2017; and received a Magnum Foundation/Henry Luce Foundation grant for her photo-essay *Cuba During The Pandemic*, which was published in The Guardian.

Leysis has exhibited in Norway, Australia, United States, Germany, Spain, Austria, Mexico and Cuba. Her photographs are collected by International Center for Photography, Madeleine Plonsker, Lake Forest College, Girls Club Collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz, Baltimore Museum of Art, Lehigh University, Museo de la Piel (Spain), Michael Horbach Foundation (Germany), Houston Museum of Art, and Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

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This series of photographs is a reflection of my deepest passions and creative expressions; a visual narrative of my personal journey, of the years spent in Los Sitios, my cherished neighborhood. In these images, I frame the beauty of everyday moments with my daughters, Avril and Mia; our life stories, our dreams, and the bonds we share as a family. It's a reflection of my past, my roots, and the hopes that have sustained me through life's challenges. It is also a tribute to the community that has shaped us; the streets and rooftops that have witnessed our laughter and tears, the simple joys and authentic connections that define life in Los Sitios.

Documenting our lives through photography is how I preserve memories, honor our identity, and share our story with the world; offering a glimpse into the dreams and aspirations of Cuban children like Avril and Mia. With my camera I find beauty in the ordinary, strength in community, and the pure joy of living each moment to the fullest.

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AVRIL Y EL PERRO



EL BARRIO





AVRIL EN EL MORRO



LA CASA DE ARAMIRTHA



LA ESCALERA



AVRIL EN TUTU ROJO





EL CAMBRE



EL REFLEJO



CUADRO DE LUZ



RUFO EL BELLO





AVRIL, MIA Y RUFO



MIA CONTEMPLANDO AVRIL



LA CLASE



LA CLASE DE BALLET





MIA Y AVRIL EN EL MURO



LA SOMBRA



LA MODELO MIA



EL GYM





LA CENA EN LOS SITIOS



MIA, AVRIL Y DENISE



MIA, LIZMARIE Y AVRIL



LA EXPOSICION DE BAILARINAS





LA CERCA



VAMPIRITAS MIA Y ANDREA



SOFIA Y MIA





MIA EN TUTU ROSADO



LA PRINCESA MIA Y RUFUS EL PRIMERO





EL VESTIDO DE LA PRINCESA



EL REFLEJO DE LA PRINCESA MIA



LA MEDITACION





LAS FLORES DE IVON





MIA Y SUS PELUCHES



MIA CON TUTU ROMANTICO EN LA ALFOMBRA ROJA



LAVANDERIA DE TUTUS



AVRIL Y LAS SABANAS BLANCAS





TRONO DE MIA

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