

**CUBA**  
THE ELUSIVE ISLAND  
Photographs by Tria Giovan  
With excerpts selected  
by Marilú Menéndez

Cuba—so close to the United States, yet so inaccessible and virtually unknown to most of the American public. Now, this full-color book brings to life this vibrant but enigmatic land.

Since 1990 photographer Tria Giovan has enjoyed privileged access to an intimate side of Cuban life. Her landscapes, urban scenes, portraits, and interiors have a timeless quality, conveying day-to-day Cuba in visual terms. The beautiful, evocative images extend beyond the political to reveal the undaunted spirit of the Cuban people, the former grandeur and lingering beauty of the land, and the integrity of the culture amid a climate of uncertainty.

The photographs are complemented by a wide variety of excerpts, all are in English, and many are also in the original Spanish. Included are passages and poems from such important Cuban writers as Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Alejo Carpentier, and Heberto Padilla, among others, as well as songs, historical accounts, and personal memoirs. This original combination of writing and images creates a compelling portrait of a complex country.

Tria Giovan's photographs are in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and other museums, and her work has appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Aperture*, *Esquire*, and *Vogue*. Born in Cuba, Marilú Menéndez is a writer and scholar of Latin American history.

*Biographical notes. 103 illustrations in full color,  
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