Immigrant photog visits Cuba, finds ‘poetry’ and resilience

Jacek Ganczarz
Florida Atlantic University's John D. MacArthur Campus Library Gallery will host "Cuba: Landscapes of a Revolution," works by Lake Worth photographer Jacek Ganczarz, from Friday, Jan. 9, through Friday, March 13.

Ganczarz's photographs do not glamorize the island. Rather, they depict a nation in perpetual limbo. He shows a desolate landscape — not devoid of its inhabitants but of their souls — while capturing the surreal complexities of a revolution now in its 50th year.

"My goal as a photographer is to reveal lifestyle and habit, testimony to socioeconomic and political climates," Ganczarz explained. "I document communities, searching for and examining the profound, often ironic connections between people and their physical surroundings."

Wandering through streets, connecting with his subjects in the intimacy of their neighborhoods and homes, Ganczarz feels "poetry," he said. He finds a reassuring sameness of character, "one that is adaptable and resilient, regardless of status or location."

Ganczarz, who came to the U.S. from Poland when he was 5 years old, feels a connection to the Cuban people and the immigrant experience. "Living in South Florida, you can't help but be aware of what's going on 90 miles away. I admire their culture and music, their perseverance and spirit. I feel a mutual bond."

The "Cuba: Landscapes of a Revolution" exhibition runs from Friday, Jan. 9, through Friday, March 13, at FAU's Jupiter-campus library, 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter.

Library hours are Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to midnight.

For more information, contact Diane Amato at (561) 795-8530 or damahta@fau.edu, or visit www.library.fau.edu/npb/npb.htm.

'Sports Park,' above, displays Ganczarz's attempt to document the connection between people and their physical environment in Cuba. It is a chromogenic print, 24 by 20 inches, framed, in editions of 10; $350 each.

In 'Revolutionaries,' above, Ganczarz sets out to depict a nation in perpetual limbo. It is a chromogenic print, 24 by 20 inches, framed, in editions of 10; $350 each.