

Katrín
Elvarsdóttir
Songbirds

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER-
it sounds obvious but I did not listen
and I got really sick. Do not drink
juice either. Beer is safe and it is
everywhere for cheap.

bls. 1
1–16 örk

From: felix esquivel (felix_esquivel@hotmail.com)
Date: 14.október 2006 16:25:44 GMT
To: katrin Elvarsdottir (katrin2@mac.com)
Subject: Re: Cuba

Hi. Yes I have many tips. It is a tricky trip, stressful at times but interesting.

1. I recommend flying any other airline instead of Cubana if you can help it. If you fly Cubana do not panic when you see the plane fill up with white fog: it is antiquated air conditioning.
2. Pack light! Do not check any luggage since they are very often open and vandalized in transit at the airport.
3. Practice some Spanish before you go because barely anybody speaks English, even at tourist restaurants. Must used frases:
"Cuanto cueasta esto?" - How much does this cost?
"Me gustaria comer..." - I would like to eat...
"En donde esta el bano?" - Where is the bathroom?
"En donde esta la catedral...la tienda?" - Where is the cathedral ... the store?
3. Cuba has two currencies, the Cuban peso that every citizen gets paid on and the "Chavito" or CUC money used by tourists and rich Cubans who have it because their family sent them money from other countries. Most Cubans are out in the street hustling for the CUC because the Cuban pesos is worthless. The average Cuban makes 250 pesos a month. A doctor gets paid 30 American dollars a month and most consumer goods like shampoo is 10 CUC a bottle. The gap between the have CUC's and the have-nots is huge. I recommend bringing Euros to exchange for Chavitos (CUC) because the 8 % exchange rate is better than the 20% exchange rate of the USD. Also it is helpful to change CUC into Cuban pesos because there are some things you can buy in the street in pesos. For example coffee is hard to find but there are ladies who sale it out of their houses or walk around with thermos full of espresso for only 1 Cuban peso, like 4 USD cents. At a tourist café you can pay up tp 3 dollars - 75 Cuban pesos for a cup of coffee. Also fruit, eggs and roasted peanuts, etc.

4. Cuba is extremely safe. The most common crimes are giving you back the wrong change or overcharging you. Vedado district feels the safest. Walk around at your own judgement and don't be afraid of the dark because most street lights are out. Watch out for holes in the sidewalks.

5. DO NOT DRINK THE WATER- it sounds obvious but I did not listen and I got really sick. Do not drink juice either. Beer is safe and it is everywhere for cheap.

6. To stay I recommend the house of Diana Mesa. She lives with her son Pavel in the heart of the Vedado district. She is very smart and cultivated lady, educated in the U.S. so she speaks English. Her son is a pretty cool guy too. Her house is a huge and airy two story mansion from the fifties with a wide wrap around porch surrounded by a lush garden. They also have two cars and they can take you around town and go to the beach. She would even boil water for you so you don't have to spent too much money in bottled water. She did that for me when I got sick. She also cooks for her guests. To stay there is 30.00 CUC per night. It semms like a lot after I mentioned how little money Cubans make but 300.00 CUC are paid monthly to the Castro regime in taxes. She will tell you all about how things work there. She is a great guide. her email is event@ecme.netcons.com.cu
If you prefer complete privacy I recommend Casa Vicki. This is a fully equipped apartment on a third floor in the middle of a block in Vedado. Very quiet. The owners are a nice young couple Andrei and Vicki. They live downstairs. The are a bit shy and they will leave you completely alone to do whatever you like. For more info and contact go to their website: <http://cubavicki.topcities.com/indexesp.htm> (there is a good fruit market near)
It is not recommended to tell new Cuban friends where you are staying for security reasons and most tourists houses deter guests from bringing Cuban guests with them. They are afraid of burglars or hustlers praying on their guests. You will get a lot of people in the streets asking you where you are from and offering themselves as guides. They will want to sell you "genuine" cigars and want to bring you to a Paladar- a house restaurant. That meal will cost you extra because you have to pay a guide fee. Food in Cuba is not so good so have low expectations. I had some good seafood but that's it. Although heard Los Nardos restaurant in front of el Capitolio is pretty good. There is always huge lines outside of it.
Other websites with listings of houses: (note that some of this houses do not exist anymore for whatever reason)
<http://www.connect2cuba.com/casaparticular/searchresults.html>
casaparticular.com
casaparticular.info
cubacasa.net
havana-rentals.com

7. For transportation the cheapest taxis are Panataxi, 777-7777, they are everywhere and they have a meter. Do not take unmarked cars or private taxi cars because it is illegal to transport tourists if they are not authorized.

From Vedado to the old city or to Miramar costs between 3-4 CUC. From Vedado to Playa del Este, in front of the Tropicoco or old Hotel Riviera is 15.00 CUC each way. (I recommend asking your taxi driver to take la Gallegita road instead of the expressway because it is a very scenic view of the countryside.

The bicycle taxis are fun in old habana.

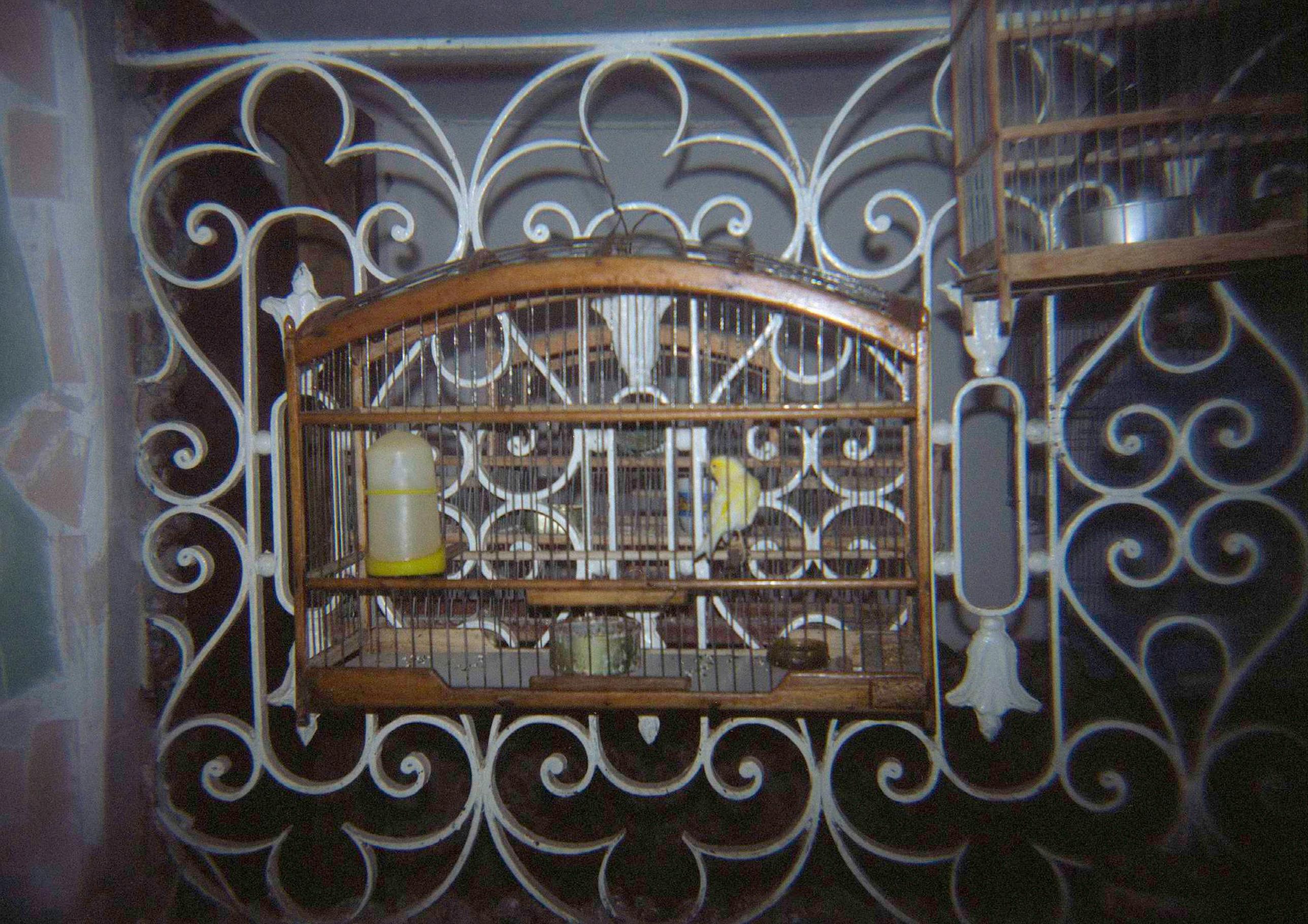
There are Villazul buses from the bus station downtown to many tourist resorts throughout the island, more info on cuba-junky.com

8. Places you must go are the Plaza Vieja, The Cathedral de la habana, La Plaza de saint Francis di Isisi, El Capitolio, El museo de la Revolucion, El Museo de arte contemporanio, El Morro. Walk Reyna Ave. La universidad de la Habana. The Cementary (a block away from Diana's house). At night La Rampa, el Gato Tuerto y la Mansion in Miramar. Just try to walk everywhere I you will see more. There is absolutely no advertisement in Cuba so it takes a lot of time and patience to see where things are. Ask Diana to get you tickets to the Teatro Nacional for Ballet. Buy things when you see them because you might not see them again your whole stay there.

9. Bring candy. You will have children and adults asking for money and if you can't give money to everyone candy is always appreciated.

10. Remember to save 30.00 CUC per person for airport departure tax. Ask them when you arrive if it is still 30.00 CUC, Cuban taxes change all the time and they will not let you aboard the plane if you don't pay. CUBA-JUNKY.COM IS A GREAT CUBA TRAVEL WEBSITE! Best of luck and I hope you have a great time, take lots of pictures and please share them online. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. www.felicesquivel.blogspot.com for pictures of my Cuba trip www.felixhabana.blogspot.com



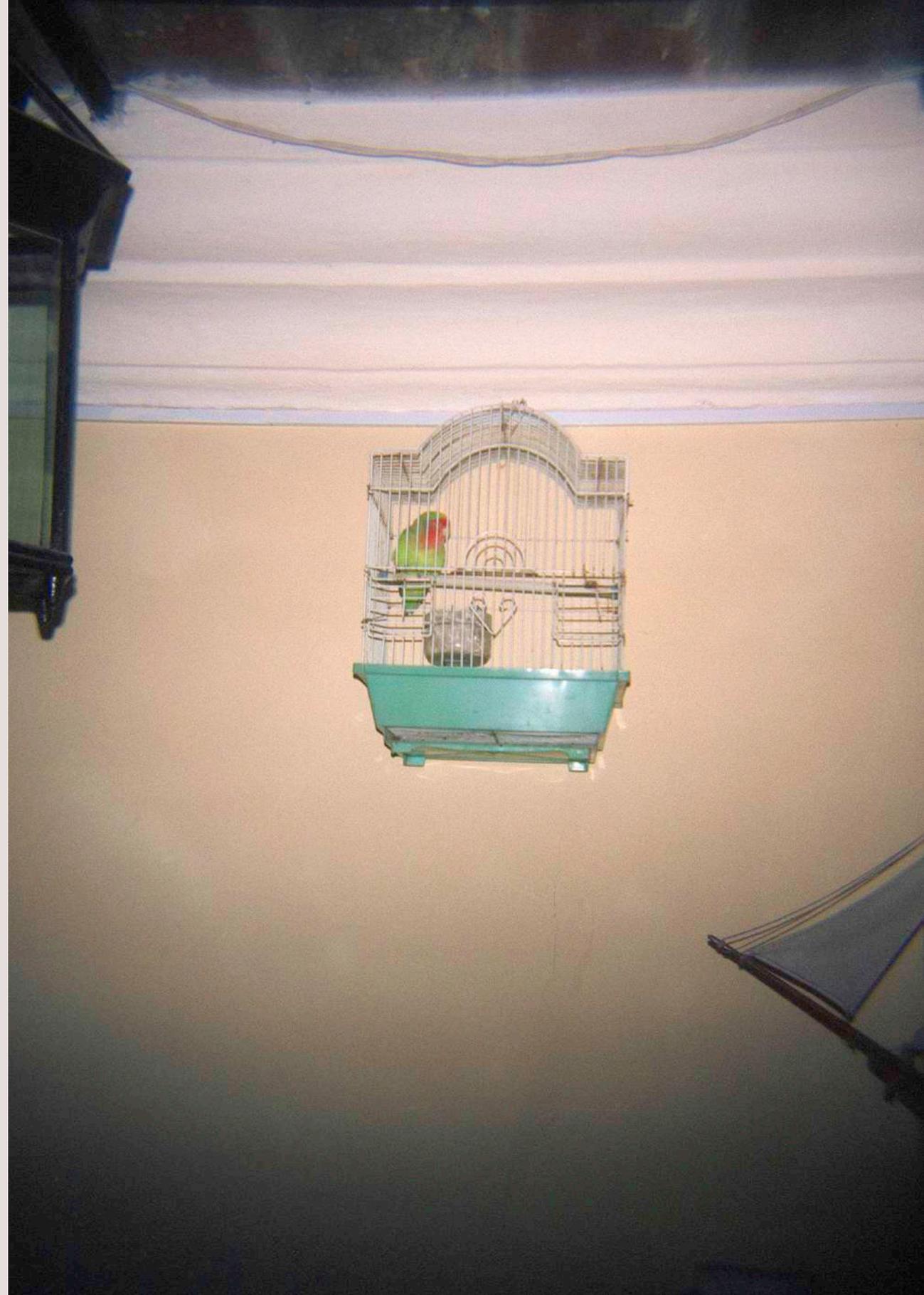






SUAVES Y ADORABLES









bls. 16
1-16 örk
16 síður

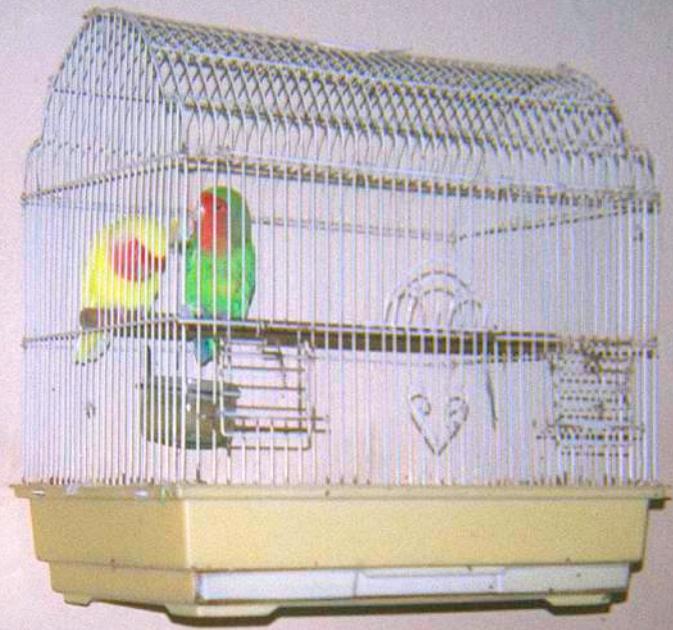


bls. 17
17-24 örk
8 síður

glans









glans

bls. 24
17-24 örk
8 síður



bls. 25
25-33 örk
8 síður









bls. 32
25-32 örk
8 síður



bls. 33
33-40 örk
8 síður

glans











glans

bls. 40
33–40 örk
8 síður



bls. 41
41–48 örk
8 síður









bls. 48
41-48 örk
8 síður



bls. 49
49-56 örk
8 síður



glans









A songbird, caged.
Daria Sol Andrews

Cuba is a country cloaked in an intriguing mystery, a place of cultural richness and political restriction. Its history is complex, and the isolation entwined in that history is equally compelling. When contemplating the confinement surrounding Cuba, the image of a caged songbird is brought to mind, relating both to Cuba's tourists and its residents. We can all connect to this isolation in a universal sense today, our current global predicament causing so many of us to feel trapped and caged, no matter the country. While Cuba once felt unique in its restrictions, today it is a haunting new normal across the globe.



glans

bls. 56
49-56 örk
8 síður

bls. 57
57-64 örk
8 síður

In Cuba, one will most likely be quick to encounter a lonely caged songbird - a tradition of owning songbirds is longstanding in Cuba and a part of their cultural heritage. As Katrín Elvarsdóttir experienced in her travels to Cuba some years ago, most homes she encountered had one, if not many, adorned in intricate cages within sparse and barren homes. Perhaps the Cubans feel a certain affinity with the songbird, their own movements restricted and controlled. An isolated human seeking an isolated companion in their own cage. In a place where economic poverty is the rule rather than the exception, perhaps ownership of a songbird presents a certain facade of luxury, implying an indulgence of lifestyle so as to mask the appearance of lacking and wanting.

In her work, Katrín captures an essential loneliness and solitude. And yet, within the images a yearning for richness calls out, both emotional and material. Her photographs are grainy and imperfect, inverted colors and negative images revealing odd tones that bring life to a mysterious country. This vibrancy of colors contrasts the subject matter - abandoned buildings, empty homes, vacant storefronts. The grandness of the Cuban architecture is deceiving, portraying a level of luxury and European sophistication while on the inside the buildings are largely void. A Colonial history shines strongly through the country's architectural elements, and works in some ways to mask its true barrenness. Katrín captures a certain decrepitude in her photographs, though the viewer can feel a desperate attempt to fill in the gaps - to present an image of wealth, of having, and of abundance.

And the songbird itself, photographed in the seeming dark (as the homes lack sufficient electricity and lighting). This creates a spotlight pinned onto the birds and their cages, bringing them out from the dark. It feels as though she is capturing a secret, revealing something that was meant to stay hidden. They peek out at us from their cages, asking for freedom, or at least for something more. The songbird seeks to connect and interact, and they feel quite human to us in that sense - companionship is our most basic human need.

An isolated country begins to feel familiar to us. A decrepit building, an empty room, a locked cage, and the lonely love song, echoing out on barren walls.

Katrín Elvarsdóttir was born in 1964 in Ísafjörður, Iceland. She studied fine arts and photography at Brevard Community College and the Art Institute of Boston. Elvarsdóttir's photographic works dwell on the borderlands of reality and fiction, bearing a sense of nostalgia and re-experience. They test the myriad of meanings that lie within the archive of memory-making and linear time within storytelling, challenging the events that constitute our sense of personal history. She continues to forego the photographic medium's conventional documentation usage, focusing instead on its potential as a research tool and for contemporary image-making and aesthetical expression.

Her work has been exhibited worldwide, in institutions such as The Reykjavík Art Museum and the National Gallery of Iceland, Forum Box in Helsinki, The Museum of Photography in Seoul, Martin Asbæk Gallery in Copenhagen, Künstlerhaus Vienna, and Frankfurter Kunstverein in Frankfurt. She has been awarded and nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including the EIKON Award and The Deutsche Börse Photographic Prize. *Songbirds* is Elvarsdóttir's fifth publication; her previous works are *Mórar-nærvídd* (2005), *Equivocal* (2011), *Vanished Summer* (2013) and *Double Happiness* (2016). Elvarsdóttir is the co-director of the Icelandic Photography Festival; she is represented by BERG Contemporary in Reykjavík.

My gratitude to the people of Havana for inviting me inside their homes to photograph.

Songbirds

First edition, November 2021

Text:

Daria Sól Andrews

Felix Esquivel

Design:

Ármann Agnarsson

Paper:

Munken Polar Rough

UPM gloss

Printing:

Prentmet Oddi, Reykjavik

All rights reserved

ISBN XXXKKEEEWWWE

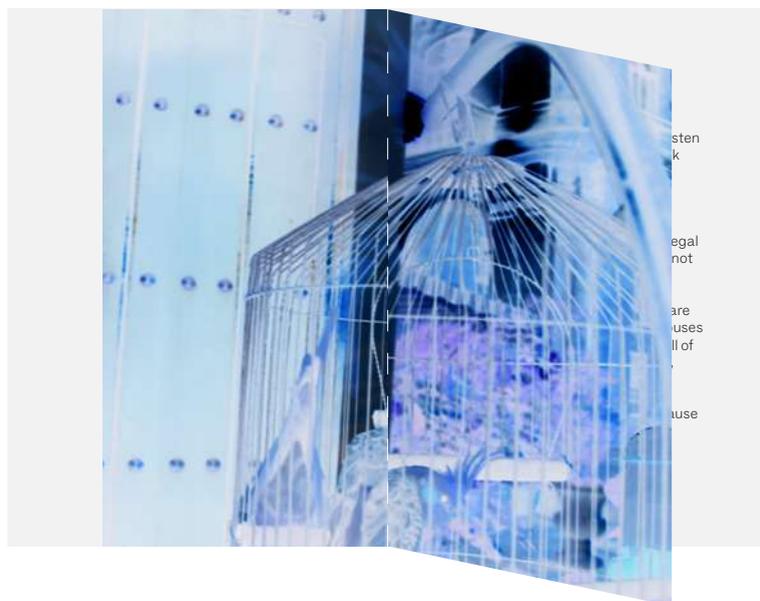
© Katrín Elvarsdóttir 2021

www.katrinelvarsdottir.com

Myndlistarsjóður
Icelandic Visual
Arts Fund

Katrín Elvarsdóttir

– ólíkur pappír, fuglar í búri á matt pappír
8-16 bls. – svo taka við cross proces
myndir 4 bls. sem eru styttri
glans pappír og fara utan um hverja
8 eða 16 bls. örk

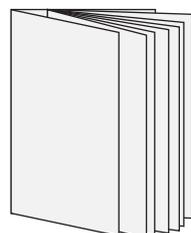


Kápa

01 Glans 4 bls.
Stytttri síður



16 bls.
innsíður

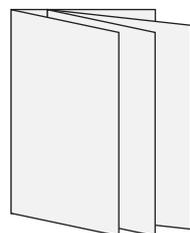


1-16

02 Glans 4 bls.
Stytttri síður

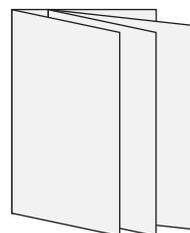


8 bls.
innsíður



17-24

8 bls.
innsíður

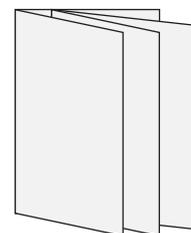


25-32

03 Glans 4 bls.
Stytttri síður

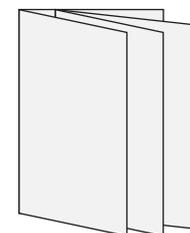


8 bls.
innsíður



33-40

8 bls.
innsíður

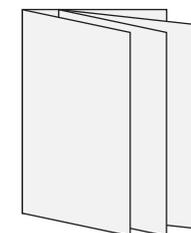


41-48

04 Glans 4 bls.
Stytttri síður

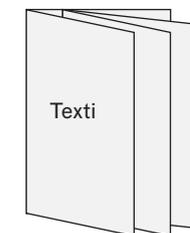


8 bls.
innsíður



49-56

8 bls.
innsíður



57-64

Texti



Baksíða
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk

Forsíða
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk



Inná forsíðu
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk

Inná bak
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk



CONSEJO REGULADOR DE LA UNIÓN DE PRODUCTORES DE VINOS DE ESPAÑA

EXPOSICIÓN

1. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

2. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

3. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

4. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

5. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

6. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

7. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

8. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

9. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

10. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.



10

INFORMACIÓN DE CONSUMIDOR

1. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

2. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

3. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

4. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

5. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

6. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

7. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

8. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

9. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

10. El presente Reglamento establece las condiciones de producción y de comercialización de los vinos de España.

U2 bak
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk

U2 forsiða
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk



U2 inná F
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk

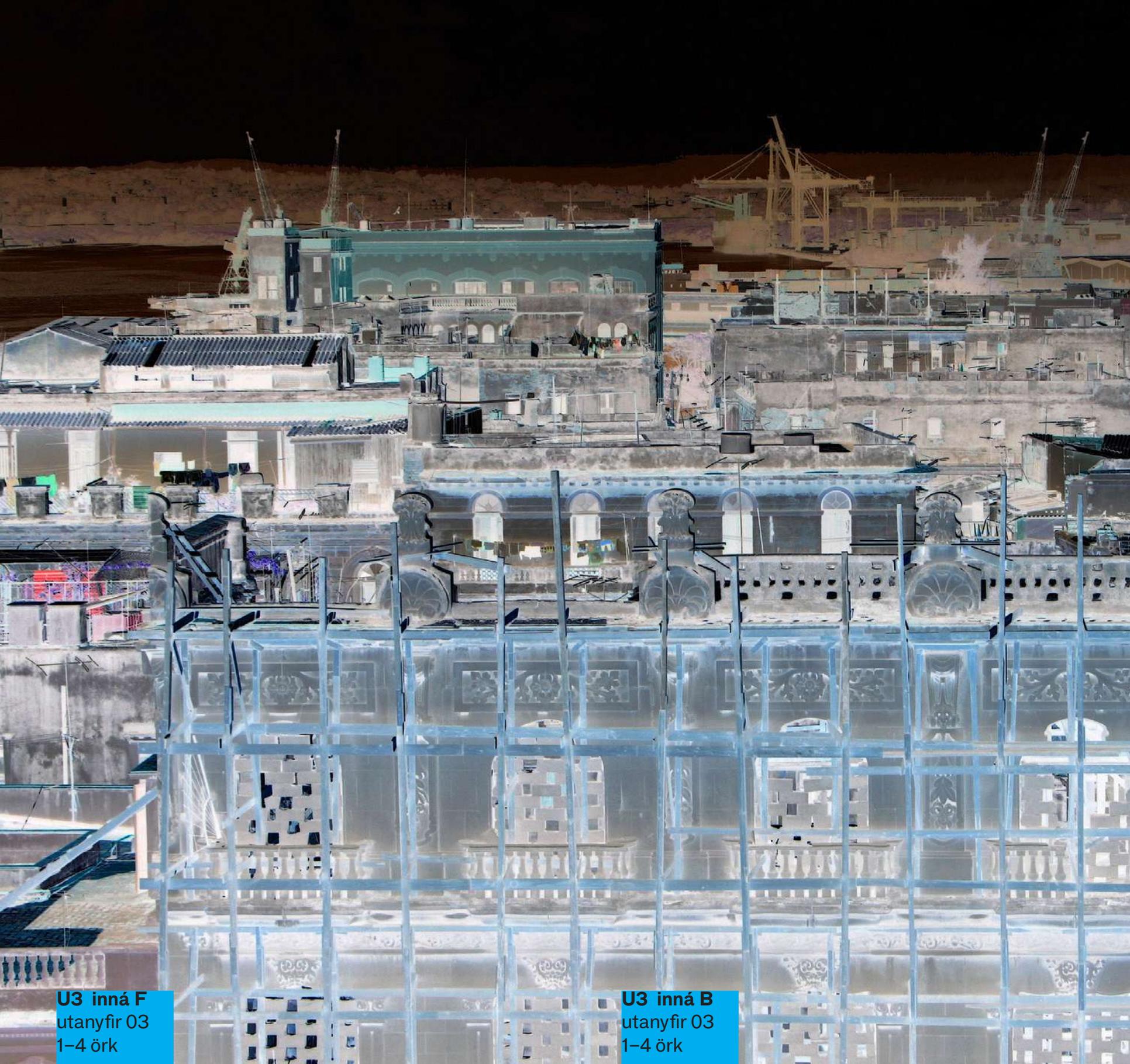
U2 inná B
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk



VIVA RAÚL

U3 bak
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk

U3 forsiða
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk



U3 inná F
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk

U3 inná B
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk



U4 bak
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk

U4 forsiða
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk



U4 inná F
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk

U4 inná B
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk



trín óttir *birds*

HE WATER-
id not listen
Do not drink
afe and it is
e for cheap.

Forsíða
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk

A blue-tinted photograph of a glass plate with a relief of a dragon and a fish. The dragon is on the left, and the fish is on the right. The plate is set against a dark blue background.

Katrín Elvarsdóttir *Songbirds*

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER-
it sounds obvious but I did not listen
and I got really sick. Do not drink
juice either. Beer is safe and it is
everywhere for cheap.

Inná forsiðu
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk

bls. 1
1-16 örk

From: felix esquivel (felix_esquivel@hotmail.com)
Date: 14.október 2006 16:25:44 GMT
To: katrin Elvarsdottir (katrin2@mac.com)
Subject: Re: Cuba

Hi. Yes I have many tips. It is a tricky trip, stressful at times but interesting.

1. I recommend flying any other airline instead of Cubana if you can help it. If you fly Cubana do not panic when you see the plane fill up with white fog: it is antiquated air conditioning.
2. Pack light! Do not check any luggage since they are very often open and vandalized in transit at the airport.
3. Practice some Spanish before you go because barely anybody speaks English, even at tourist restaurants. Must used frases:
"Cuanto cueasta esto?" - How much does this cost?
"Me gustaria comer..." - I would like to eat...
"En donde esta el bano?" - Where is the bathroom?
"En donde esta la catedral...la tienda?" - Where is the cathedral ... the store?
3. Cuba has two currencies, the Cuban peso that every citizen gets paid on and the "Chavito" or CUC money used by tourists and rich Cubans who have it because their family sent them money from other countries. Most Cubans are out in the street hustling for the CUC because the Cuban pesos is worthless. The average Cuban makes 250 pesos a month. A doctor gets paid 30 American dollars a month and most consumer goods like shampoo is 10 CUC a bottle. The gap between the have CUC's and the have-nots is huge. I recommend bringing Euros to exchange for Chavitos (CUC) because the 8 % exchange rate is better than the 20% exchange rate of the USD. Also it is helpful to change CUC into Cuban pesos because there are some things you can buy in the street in pesos. For example coffee is hard to find but there are ladies who sale it out of their houses or walk around with thermos full of expresso for only 1 Cuban peso, like 4 USD cents. At a tourist café you can pay up tp 3 dollars - 75 Cuban pesos for a cup of coffee. Also fruit, eggs and roasted peanuts, etc.

4. Cuba is extremely safe. The most common crimes are giving you back the wrong change or overcharging you. Vedado district feels the safest. Walk around at your own judgement and don't be afraid of the dark because most street lights are out. Watch out for holes in the sidewalks.

5. DO NOT DRINK THE WATER- it sounds obvious but I did not listen and I got really sick. Do not drink juice either. Beer is safe and it is everywhere for cheap.

6. To stay I recommend the house of Diana Mesa. She lives with her son Pavel in the heart of the Vedado district. She is very smart and cultivated lady, educated in the U.S. so she speaks English. Her son is a pretty cool guy too. Her house is a huge and airy two story mansion from the fifties with a wide wrap around porch surrounded by a lush garden. They also have two cars and they can take you around town and go to the beach. She would even boil water for you so you don't have to spent too much money in bottled water. She did that for me when I got sick. She also cooks for her guests. To stay there is 30.00 CUC per night. It semms like a lot after I mentioned how little money Cubans make but 300.00 CUC are paid monthly to the Castro regime in taxes. She will tell you all about how things work there. She is a great guide. her email is event@ecme.netcons.com.cu
If you prefer complete privacy I recommend Casa Vicki. This is a fully equipped apartment on a third floor in the middle of a block in Vedado. Very quiet. The owners are a nice young couple Andrei and Vicki. They live downstairs. The are a bit shy and they will leave you completely alone to do whatever you like. For more info and contact go to their website: <http://cubavicki.topcities.com/indexesp.htm> (there is a good fruit market near)
It is not recommended to tell new Cuban friends where you are staying for security reasons and most tourists houses deter guests from bringing Cuban guests with them. They are afraid of burglars or hustlers praying on their guests. You will get a lot of people in the streets asking you where you are from and offering themselves as guides. They will want to sell you "genuine" cigars and want to bring you to a Paladar- a house restaurant. That meal will cost you extra because you have to pay a guide fee. Food in Cuba is not so good so have low expectations. I had some good seafood but that's it. Although heard Los Nardos restaurant in front of el Capitolio is pretty good. There is always huge lines outside of it.
Other websites with listings of houses: (note that some of this houses do not exist anymore for whatever reason)
<http://www.connect2cuba.com/casaparticular/searchresults.html>
casaparticular.com
casaparticular.info
cubacasa.net
havana-rentals.com

7. For transportation the cheapest taxis are Panataxi, 777-7777, they are everywhere and they have a meter. Do not take unmarked cars or private taxi cars because it is illegal to transport tourists if they are not authorized.

From Vedado to the old city or to Miramar costs between 3-4 CUC. From Vedado to Playa del Este, in front of the Tropicoco or old Hotel Riviera is 15.00 CUC each way. (I recommend asking your taxi driver to take la Gallegita road instead of the expressway because it is a very scenic view of the countryside.

The bicycle taxis are fun in old habana.

There are Villazul buses from the bus station downtown to many tourist resorts throughout the island, more info on cuba-junky.com

8. Places you must go are the Plaza Vieja, The Cathedral de la habana, La Plaza de saint Francis di Isisi, El Capitolio, El museo de la Revolucion, El Museo de arte contemporanio, El Morro. Walk Reyna Ave. La universidad de la Habana. The Cementary (a block away from Diana's house). At night La Rampa, el Gato Tuerto y la Mansion in Miramar. Just try to walk everywhere I you will see more. There is absolutely no advertisement in Cuba so it takes a lot of time and patience to see where things are. Ask Diana to get you tickets to the Teatro Nacional for Ballet. Buy things when you see them because you might not see them again your whole stay there.

9. Bring candy. You will have children and adults asking for money and if you can't give money to everyone candy is always appreciated.

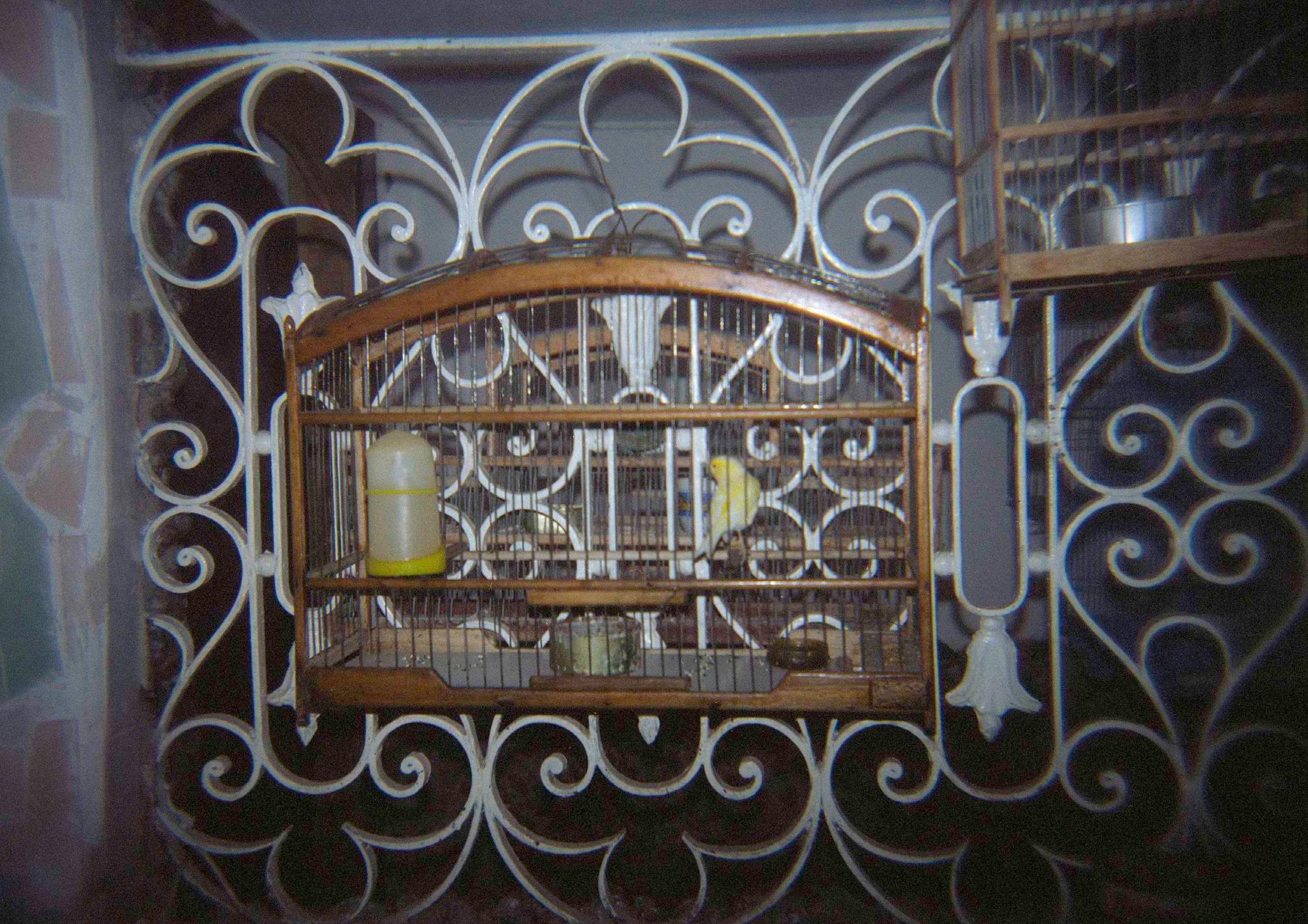
10. Remember to save 30.00 CUC per person for airport departure tax. Ask them when you arrive if it is still 30.00 CUC, Cuban taxes change all the time and they will not let you aboard the plane if you don't pay.

CUBA-JUNKY.COM IS A GREAT CUBA TRAVEL WEBSITE! Best of luck and I hope you have a great time, take lots of pictures and please share them online. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

www.felicesquivel.blogspot.com

for pictures of my Cuba trip www.felixhabana.blogspot.com

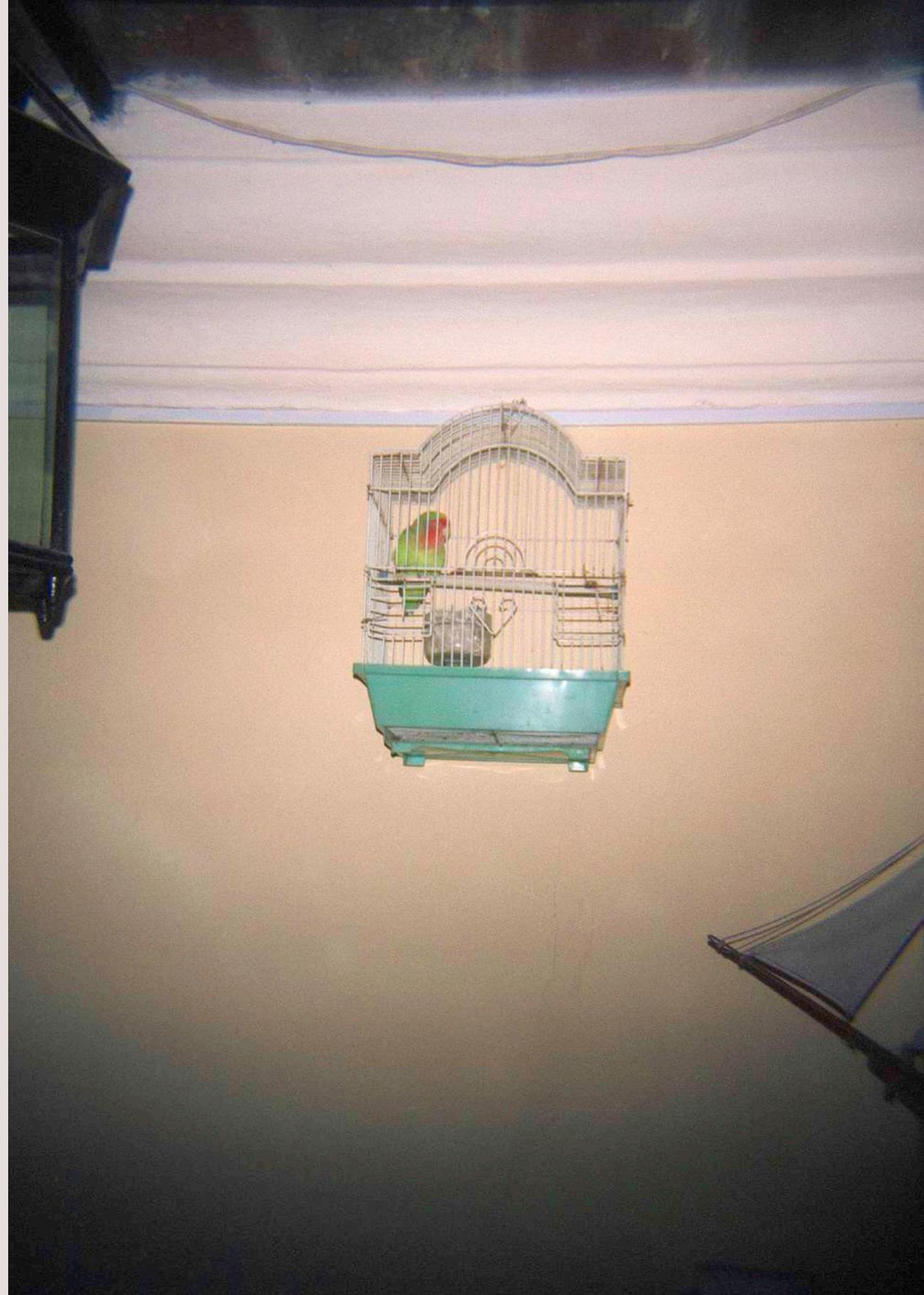








SUAVES Y ADORABLES







bls. 16
1-16 örk
16 síður



bls. 17
17-24 örk
8 síður



bls. 124
1-16 örk
16 síður

U2 forsíða
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk



U2 inná F
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk



bls. 127
17-24 örk
8 síður









bls. 24
17-24 örk
8 síður



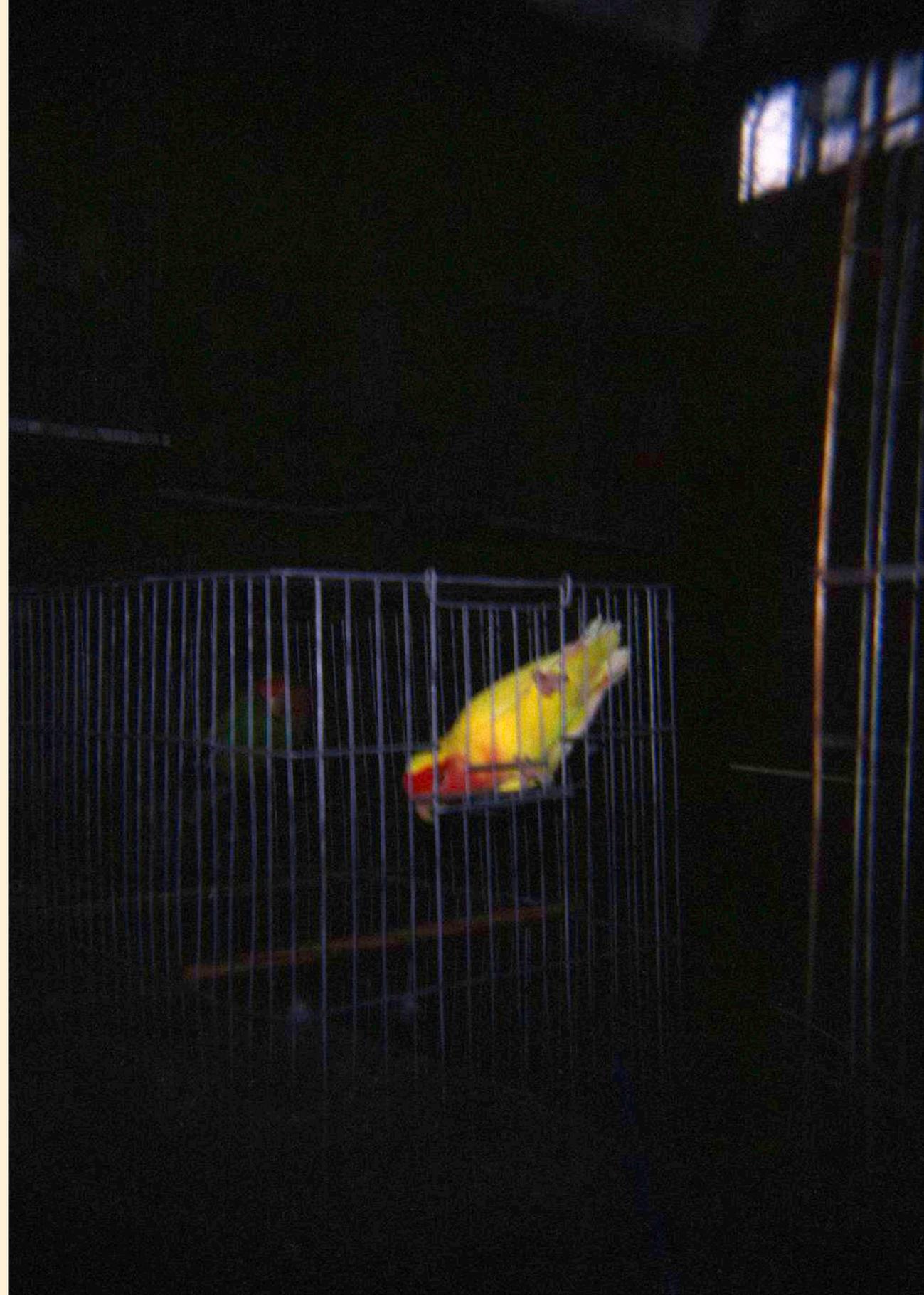
bls. 25
25-33 örk
8 síður



bls. 24
17-24 örk
8 síður



U2 inná B
utanyfir 02
1-4 örk









bls. 32
25-32 örk
8 síður



bls. 33
33-40 örk
8 síður



bls. 32
25–32 örk
8 síður



U3 forsíða
utanyfir 03
1–4 örk



U3 inná F
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk



bls. 33
33-40 örk
8 síður





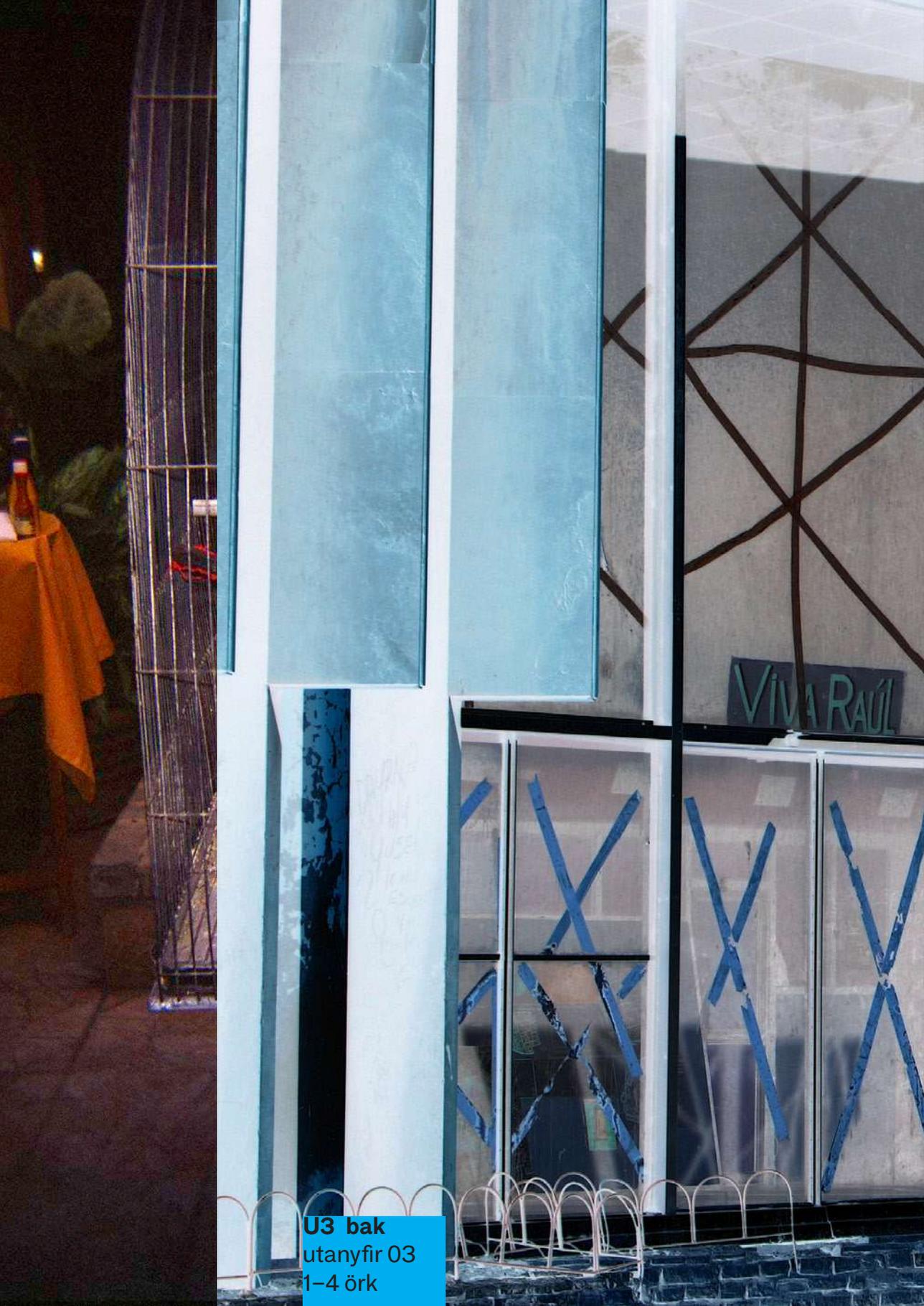




bls. 40
33–40 örk
8 síður



bls. 41
41–48 örk
8 síður



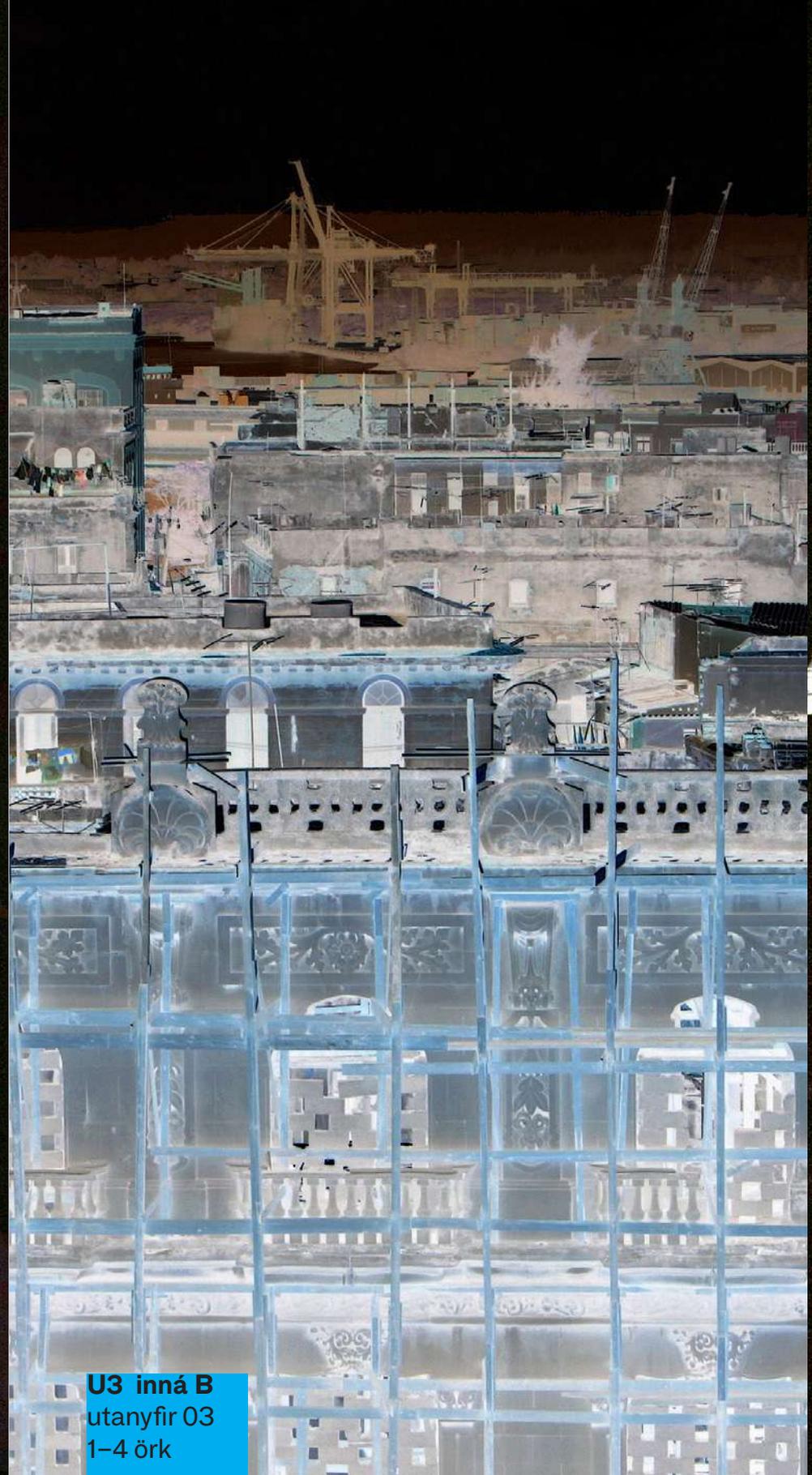
U3 bak
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk



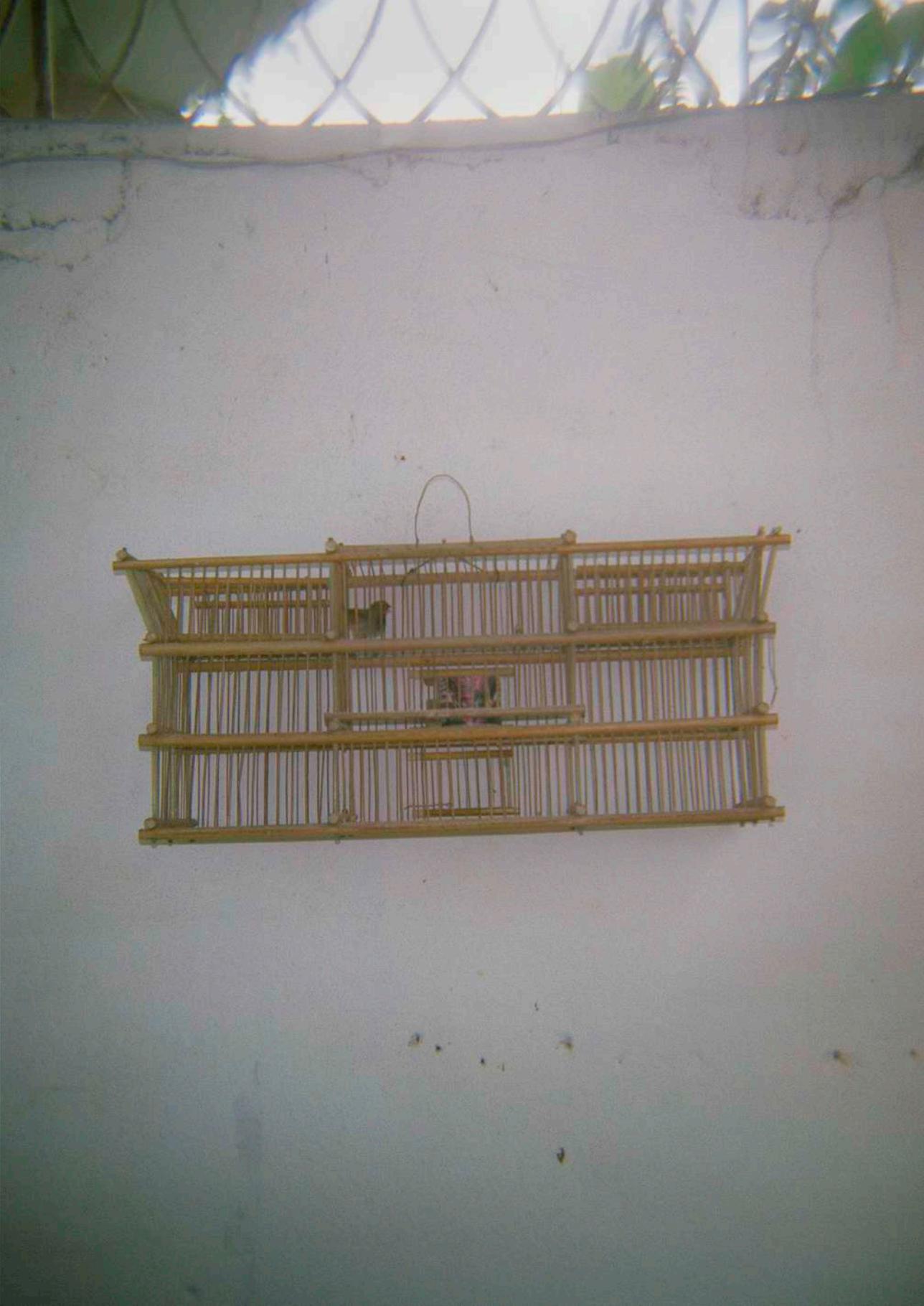
bls. 41
41-48 örk
8 síður



bls. 40
33-40 örk
8 síður



U3 inná B
utanyfir 03
1-4 örk









bls. 48
41-48 örk
8 síður



bls. 49
49-56 örk
8 síður



bls. 48
41-48 örk
8 síður



U4 forsíða
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk



U4 inná F
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk



bls. 49
49-56 örk
8 síður







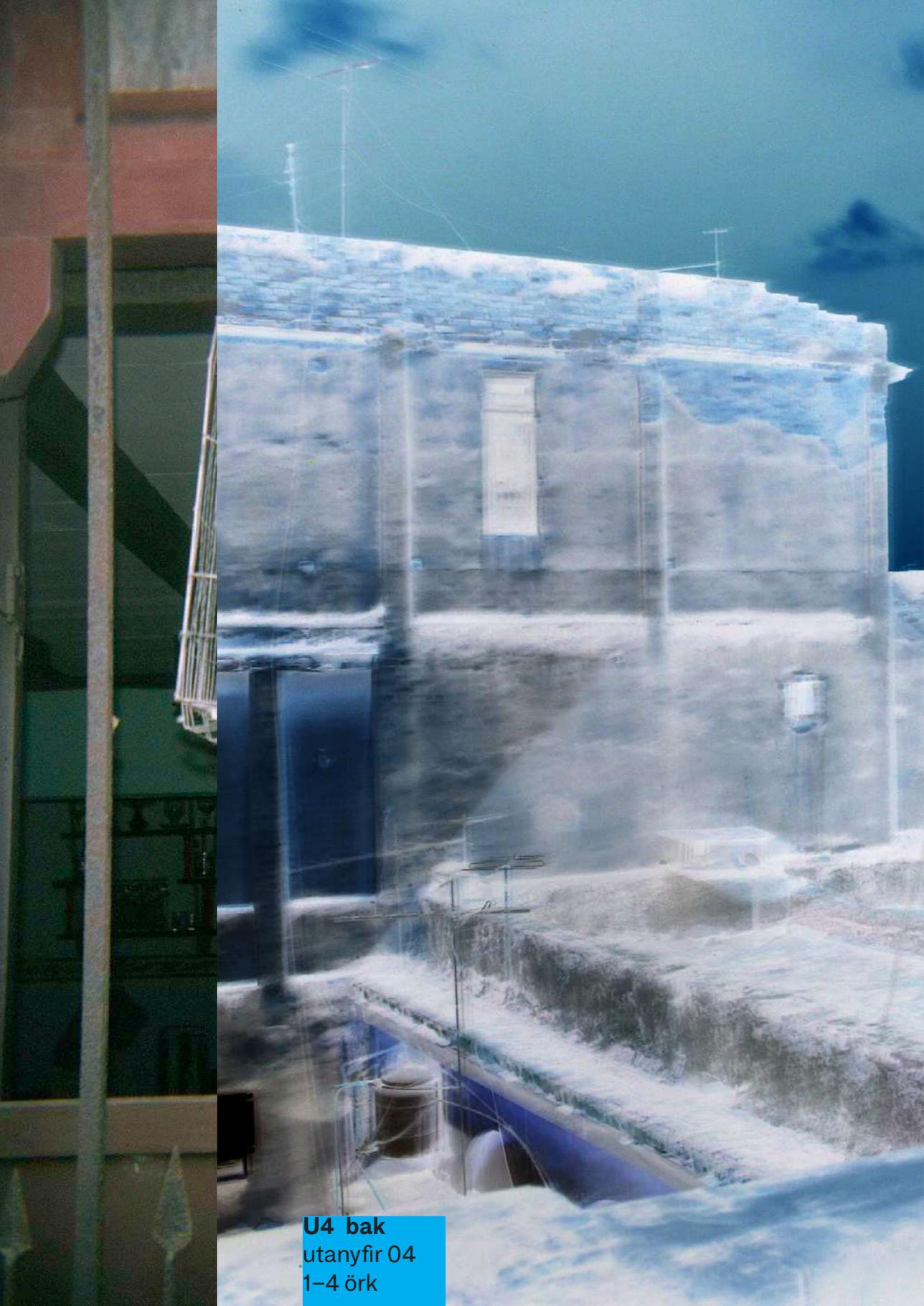


A songbird, caged.
Daria Sol Andrews

Cuba is a country cloaked in an intriguing mystery, a place of cultural richness and political restriction. Its history is complex, and the isolation entwined in that history is equally compelling. When contemplating the confinement surrounding Cuba, the image of a caged songbird is brought to mind, relating both to Cuba's tourists and its residents. We can all connect to this isolation in a universal sense today, our current global predicament causing so many of us to feel trapped and caged, no matter the country. While Cuba once felt unique in its restrictions, today it is a haunting new normal across the globe.

bls. 56
49–56 örk
8 síður

bls. 57
57–64 örk
8 síður



U4 bak
utanyfir 04
1-4 örk

A songbird, caged.
Daria Sol Andrews

Cuba is a country cloaked in an intriguing mystery, a place of cultural richness and political restriction. Its history is complex, and the isolation entwined in that history is equally compelling. When contemplating the confinement surrounding Cuba, the image of a caged songbird is brought to mind, relating both to Cuba's tourists and its residents. We can all connect to this isolation in a universal sense today, our current global predicament causing so many of us to feel trapped and caged, no matter the country. While Cuba once felt unique in its restrictions, today it is a haunting new normal across the globe.

bls. 57
57-64 örk
8 síður



bls. 56
49–56 örk
8 síður



U4 inná B
utanyfir 04
1–4 örk

ng
d
ex,
ry is
ng
e
s
o
g
d,
e
a

In Cuba, one will most likely be quick to encounter a lonely caged songbird - a tradition of owning songbirds is longstanding in Cuba and a part of their cultural heritage. As Katrín Elvarsdóttir experienced in her travels to Cuba some years ago, most homes she encountered had one, if not many, adorned in intricate cages within sparse and barren homes. Perhaps the Cubans feel a certain affinity with the songbird, their own movements restricted and controlled. An isolated human seeking an isolated companion in their own cage. In a place where economic poverty is the rule rather than the exception, perhaps ownership of a songbird presents a certain facade of luxury, implying an indulgence of lifestyle so as to mask the appearance of lacking and wanting.

In her work, Katrín captures an essential loneliness and solitude. And yet, within the images a yearning for richness calls out, both emotional and material. Her photographs are grainy and imperfect, inverted colors and negative images revealing odd tones that bring life to a mysterious country. This vibrancy of colors contrasts the subject matter - abandoned buildings, empty homes, vacant storefronts. The grandness of the Cuban architecture is deceiving, portraying a level of luxury and European sophistication while on the inside the buildings are largely void. A Colonial history shines strongly through the country's architectural elements, and works in some ways to mask its true barrenness. Katrín captures a certain decrepitude in her photographs, though the viewer can feel a desperate attempt to fill in the gaps - to present an image of wealth, of having, and of abundance.

And the songbird itself, photographed in the seeming dark (as the homes lack sufficient electricity and lighting). This creates a spotlight pinned onto the birds and their cages, bringing them out from the dark. It feels as though she is capturing a secret, revealing something that was meant to stay hidden. They peek out at us from their cages, asking for freedom, or at least for something more. The songbird seeks to connect and interact, and they feel quite human to us in that sense - companionship is our most basic human need.

An isolated country begins to feel familiar to us. A decrepit building, an empty room, a locked cage, and the lonely love song, echoing out on barren walls.

Katrín Elvarsdóttir was born in 1964 in Ísafjörður, Iceland. She studied fine arts and photography at Brevard Community College and the Art Institute of Boston. Elvarsdóttir's photographic works dwell on the borderlands of reality and fiction, bearing a sense of nostalgia and re-experience. They test the myriad of meanings that lie within the archive of memory-making and linear time within storytelling, challenging the events that constitute our sense of personal history. She continues to forego the photographic medium's conventional documentation usage, focusing instead on its potential as a research tool and for contemporary image-making and aesthetical expression.

Her work has been exhibited worldwide, in institutions such as The Reykjavík Art Museum and the National Gallery of Iceland, Forum Box in Helsinki, The Museum of Photography in Seoul, Martin Asbæk Gallery in Copenhagen, Künstlerhaus Vienna, and Frankfurter Kunstverein in Frankfurt. She has been awarded and nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including the EIKON Award and The Deutsche Börse Photographic Prize. *Songbirds* is Elvarsdóttir's fifth publication; her previous works are *Mórar-nærvídd* (2005), *Equivocal* (2011), *Vanished Summer* (2013) and *Double Happiness* (2016). Elvarsdóttir is the co-director of the Icelandic Photography Festival; she is represented by BERG Contemporary in Reykjavík.

My gratitude to the people of Havana for inviting me inside their homes to photograph.

Songbirds
First edition, November 2021

Text:
Daria Sól Andrews
Felix Esquivel

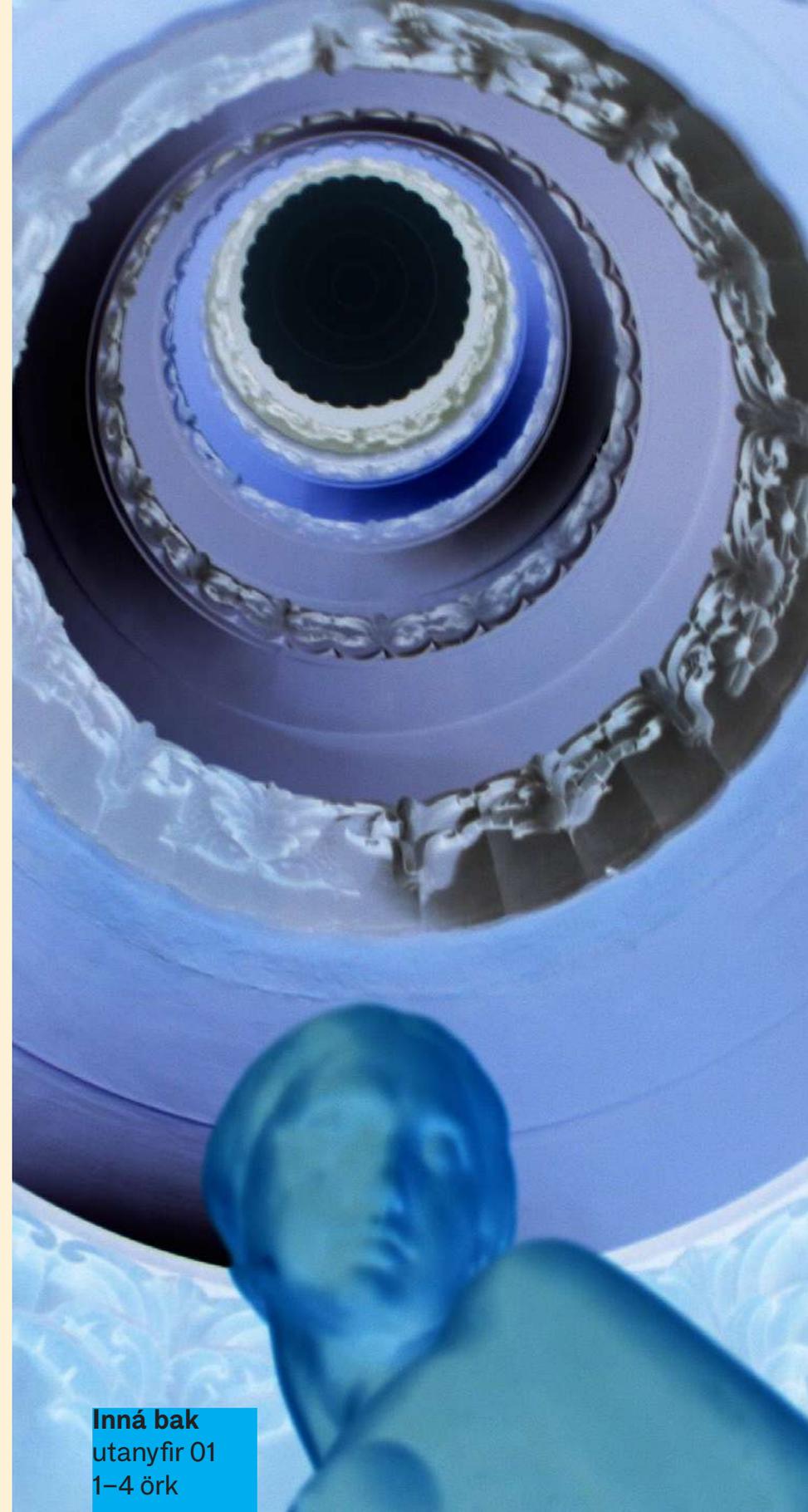
Design:
Árman Agnarsson

Paper:
Munken Polar Rough
UPM gloss

Printing:
Prentmet Oddi, Reykjavík

All rights reserved
ISBN XXXKKEEWWWE
© Katrín Elvarsdóttir 2021
www.katrinelvarsdottir.com

Myndlistarsjóður
Icelandic Visual
Arts Fund



Inná bak
utanyfir 01
1-4 örk

My gratitude to the
their homes to ph

Songbirds
First edition, Nov

Text:
Daria Sól Andrew
Felix Esquivel

Design:
Ármann Agnarsson

Paper:
Munken Polar Rou
UPM gloss

Printing:
Prentmet Oddi, R

All rights reserved
ISBN XXXKKEEEM
© Katrín Elvarsdó
www.katrinelvars

Baksíða
utanyfir 01
1–4 örk

