



Spectrum

CUBA LIBRE
The punks of Havana

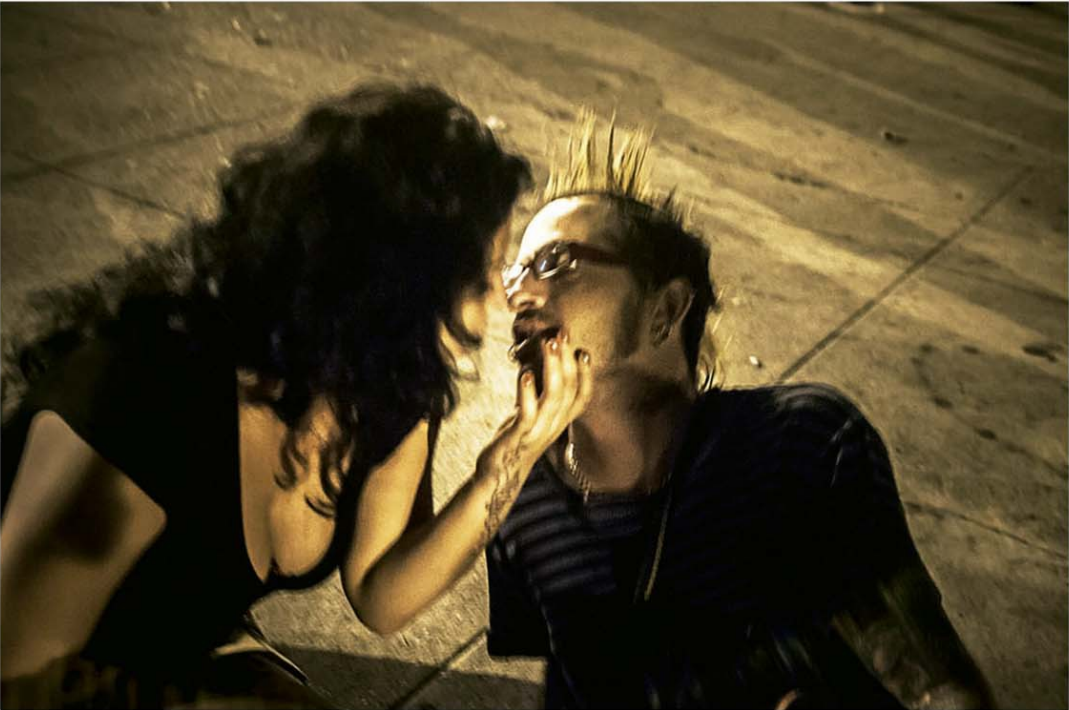


GUITAR HERO

In 1991 four frustrated youths, calling themselves Rotura, played Cuba's first punk gig in Havana. It was the spark for the country's punk-rock scene, and inspired a generation who were disillusioned with the Castro regime. More than 20 years later, the punk movement, photographed by



Josu Trueba Leiva, is still going strong. Cover: Alexis, a Havana punk artist better known as El Urraka (the Mechanic). Top left: El Urraka's friend Didie, at home in Havana, surrounded by photos of Che Guevara. Below left: William Fabián Alvarez, founder of punk band Eskoria. Above: Didie with a friend and their sons on the roof of Didie's house, at sunset. Below two rockers get to know each other in the small hours.





El Urraka fixes a car under the watchful eye of his boss. While punk is now part of the Cuban cultural landscape, the government views it with suspicion. As recently as 2008, one of the island's leading punk musicians, Gorki Aguila, was arrested on a charge of exhibiting behaviour contrary "to the standards of communist morality". Aguila, whose lyrics are often critical of the government, was spared jail and instead ordered to pay a fine for public disorder.

All photographs by
Josu Trueba Leiva