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"The collection is historically significant and underestimated, as the represented artists were major contributors to the cultural life of pre-Castro Cuba. Their memory has been subsequently eliminated and has no place in the Cuba of Today. Through the Ramos Collection, the illusion of a free Cuba lives on."--from the foreword by Wayne David Atherholt, Executive Director, Museum of Arts and Sciences

Published to accompany an exhibition of Cuban masterworks at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, Florida, this volume documents the historical development of Cuban painting from 1800 until the Revolution. Written in both Spanish and English, the essays that accompany the ninety color plates and more than 200 additional images place the paintings in historical context and explain how the collection came to be. Works are divided by subject, including portraits, music, religion, everyday life, landscapes, history, still life, avant-garde, and graphic arts.

In addition to featuring many previously unpublished paintings, the book examines how the sixty-two artists whose work is featured depicted Cuba's diverse society and identifiable culture by illustrating typical personages, magical landscapes, musical scenes, religious practices, and rural and urban realities. It also documents how these artists contributed toward the establishment of Cuba's national identity and its artistic cultural legacy. The Ramos brothers, Roberto and Carlos, built their collection with the intent of preserving an important segment of Cuba's history that otherwise might have been forgotten in the post-Revolution period