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PLAIN

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Traditions and Transitions:
Frank Thiel Portrays Cuban Quinceañeras



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German photographer Frank Thiel is presenting his newest body of work titled 15 (Quince): a series of images featuring the first generation of Cuban millennials born in 2000 celebrating their Quince – a rite of passage for young Latin American women.



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The age of 15 signals a woman's transition from childhood to adulthood, considered as a life-changing event that has to be celebrated. Which they do, in proper Latin fashion, with parties and photoshoots of the Quinceañera herself.



Though the photoshoots are usually taken against elaborate backdrops and settings, Thiel opts for a more subdued approach, photographing them in their own neighborhoods. His images celebrate not just the young women themselves, but also Havana's urban landscape – the complex setting that accompanied the Quinceañera through her childhood, and the same landscape that will shape her into the woman she will become.

15 (Quince) is on exhibit at the Sean Kelly Gallery, New York from 10 February – 17 March, 2018.