



entrance Hamel Alley

## Hamel Alley / Havana, Cuba

Homage to  
Salvador Gonzáles Escalona

Zine #4  
bill wishner / visual hunter



## **This zine is about Cuba**

...but not all of Cuba

This zine is about Havana...but not all of Havana

It's about one street or I should say one alley in Havana... Hamel Alley

And the man responsible for its creation, art and music

**Salvador Gonzalez Escalona**

Having been in Cuba twice...I was lucky enough to meet Salvador and visit his studio in Hamel Alley on both my visits.

Like all complex space it was difficult to know how to shoot the alley and the Afro-Cuban art of Salvador with its colorful palette.

In the end, I realized it would take months of looking and composing images that would do justice to this unique space.

The few images in this zine will give the viewer a small but colorful visual taste of Hamel Alley.

If you get to Havana the Alley should be on your itinerary!

from the camera of...

**Bill Wishner / Visual Hunter**





**Salvador Gonzalez Escalona**  
1948-2021  
Muralist-Painter-Sculptor

# A Brief History of Hamel Alley...



The land itself was part of the Cayo Hueso district in Havana and purchased in the early 20th century by Fernando Belleau Hamel a trader of raw materials. Hamel built homes for his workers on the street and the area was ultimately renamed Hamel Alley.

As the decades progressed the alley took on the characteristics of the local area and fell into disrepair until 1990 when painter, sculptor and muralist Salvador Gonzalez Escalona started his project of revitalizing the alley ultimately making what it is today.

Built using the detritus of the city together with a colorful palette of the artist, Salvador, it was transformed to a place honoring Afro-Cuban culture. It is a creative space, a religious space and a place for afro Cuban music.

The artist's goal was to bring creative art and music to the people by giving life to an alley forgotten by the time and by the city.

For many years the local Havana's' shunned the alley and the programs both religious and musical thinking they were associated with voodoo (Yoruba religion / Santeria) but over the decades the alley has become part of the community and local Cuban culture as well as a popular destination for tourists...largely because of Salvador

Salvador became known internationally for his artistic / mural painting with shows in both Europe and North America but he made his primary home and studio / gallery in Hamel Alley until his death in 2021.













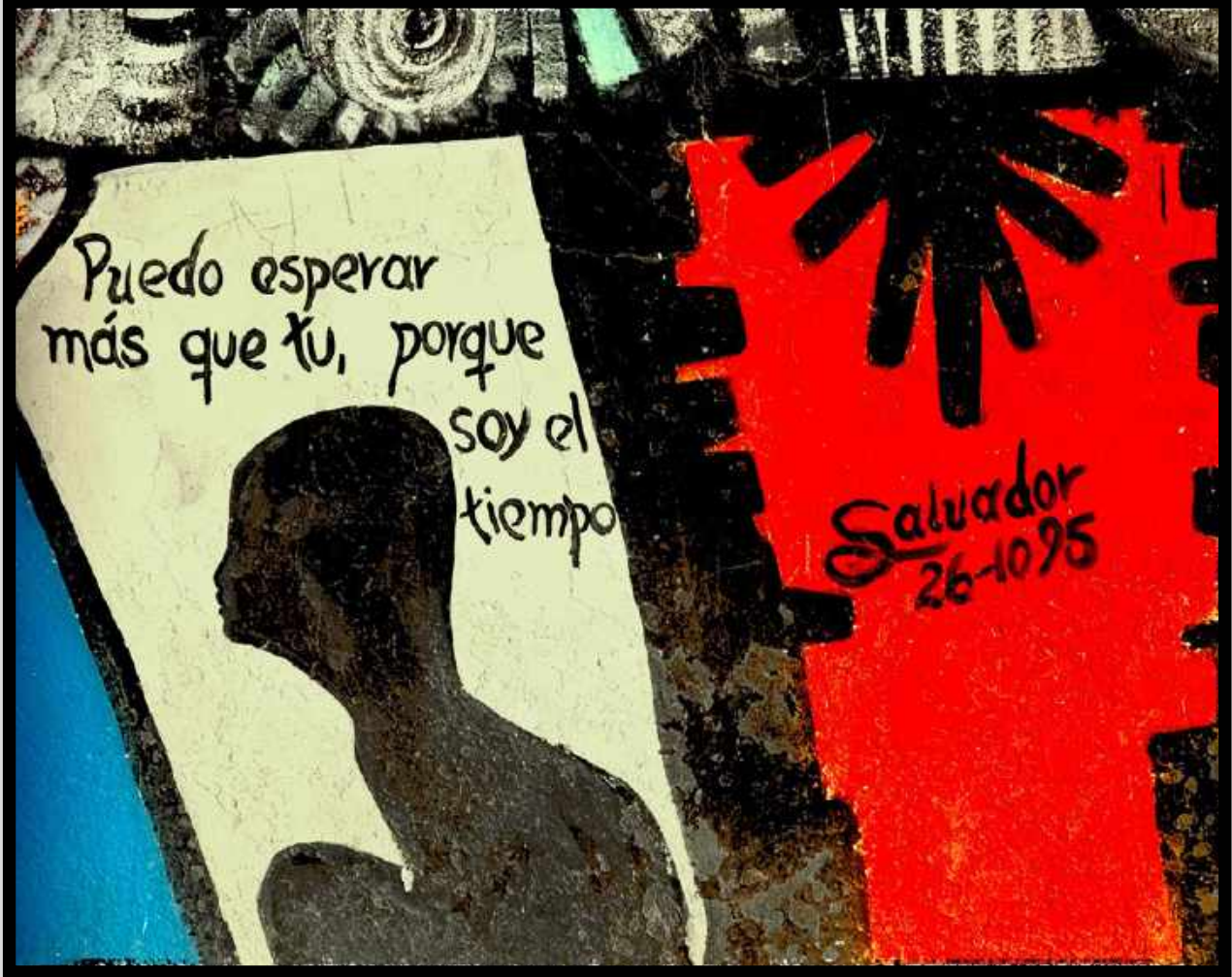








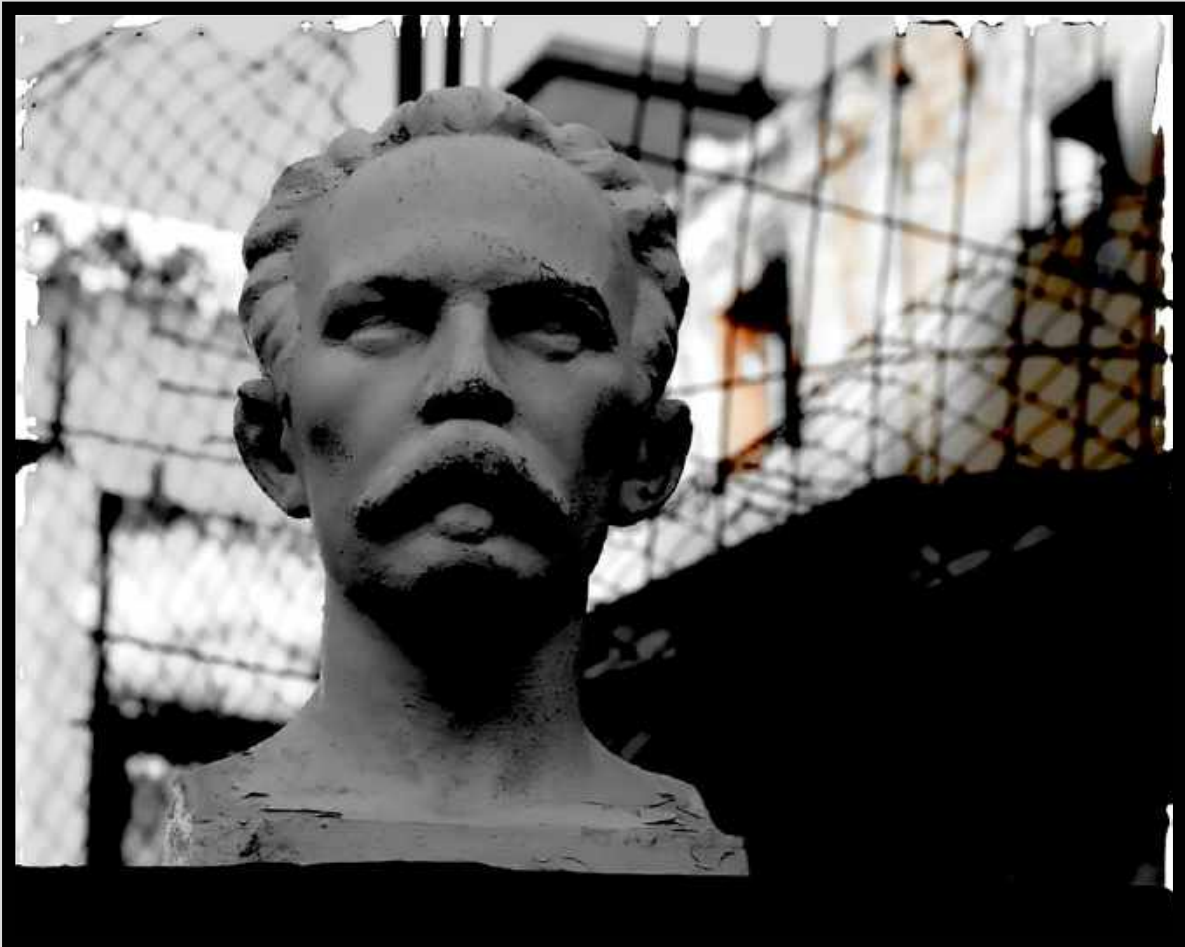












**Jose Marti**  
Cuban poet-philosopher



















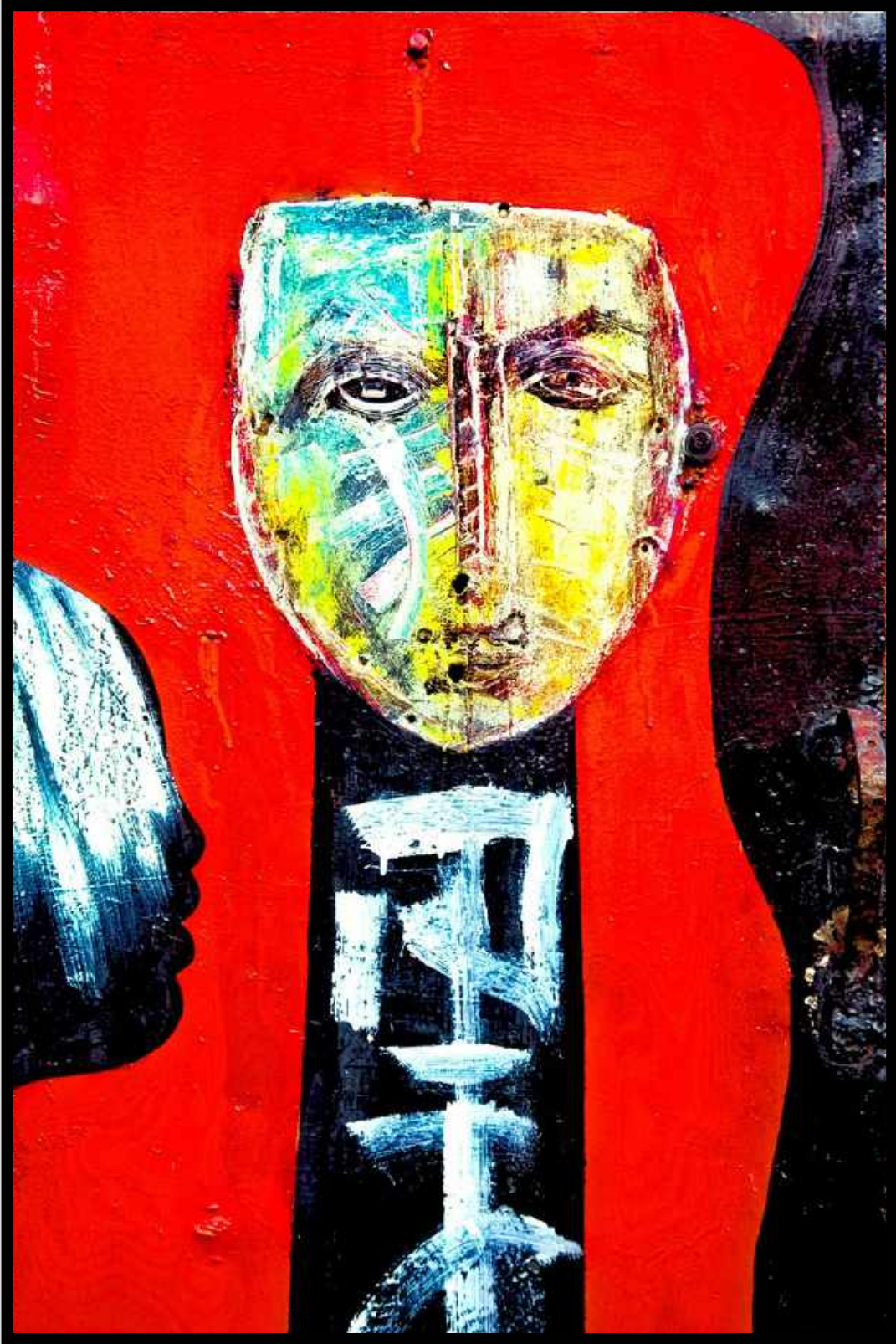














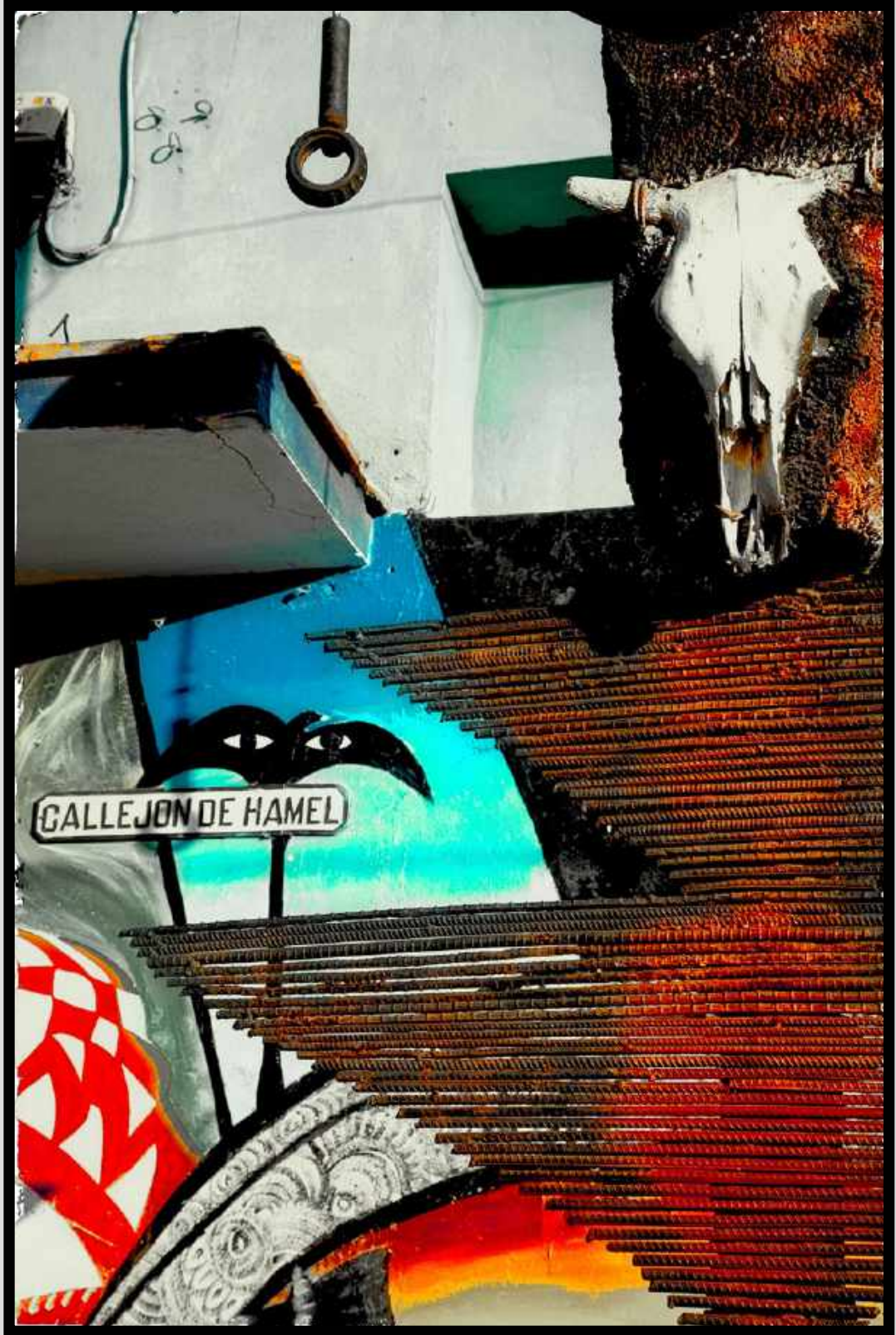






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SI NO SABES  
NO TE META

























El niño de Hamel  
entra y sale del callejón  
y nadie lo ve.

























## bill wishner / visual hunter

I started my career in photography focusing on music (jazz). My jazz images have been part of multiple exhibits. I was co-editor (with Bill Minor) of the 40th Anniversary book for the Monterey Jazz Festival  
**(Monterey Jazz Festival: 40 Legendary Years, Angel City Press, 1997).**

Starting in 2012, as a Visual Hunter, I turned my creative lens on the urban environment in cities around the world. The project, entitled **"Art of the City Wall"** focuses on transformative visual art and aesthetics of urban walls.

**"Artifacts"** (Acuity Press, 2018) was the first publication from this series.  
**"De-Faced"** (Self Published, 2020) was the second publication.

I privately published a double book of prose poems entitled...  
**'Things Happen When You Travel: Volume I & II' (2022)**

most recently I began to self-publish a series of magazines.  
highlighting images not previously shown in my exhibits or books  
**Zine #1 windows as metaphor (march 2023)**

**Zine #2 the waters of march; photographic abstracts (august 2023)**

**Zine #3 the peripatetic visual hunter explores sculpture (October 2023)**

Additional information including reviews can be found on my website.

**[www.billwishner.com](http://www.billwishner.com)**

In 2007 I founded **f8 Pasadena Salon**, exploring the aesthetics and art of photography. **<http://f8pasadenasaloon.weebly.com>** With the Covid pandemic the salon became virtual and remains virtual into 2024.

In 2012 I founded and **"Pasadena Photography Arts"** dedicated to promoting photography and helping emerging and established photographers  
**<http://pasadenaphotographyarts.org>**





## **bill wishner / visual hunter**

all images in this zine and on my website are for sale  
prices will vary according to image and size  
for further information contact me at

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[www.billwishner.com](http://www.billwishner.com)

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Africa

y el rugido se oyó

Callejon de Hamel.  
La fiesta del Congo Real.  
Aniversario XIX de la  
obra mural a la  
cultura afrocubana.

Domingo 19 de abril  
10.00 am

Salva los