



Changing Skies/ Cielos que cambian

PROJECT FOR HAVANA AND WASHINGTON / PROYECTO POR HABANA Y WASHINGTON

The project entitled *Changing skies / Cielos que cambian* consists of displaying a painting of the sky over Havana on a billboard in Washington, D.C. and a painting of the sky over Washington, D.C. on a billboard in Havana. The paintings themselves are based on photographs whose images are then rendered onto the billboards with the support of local stage painters. What were originally common advertising surfaces are thereby transformed for a period of roughly four weeks into sources of artistic reflection. The project's execution is planned for the spring or early summer of 2002.

The authentic source photographs were intentionally selected so as not to contain any specific features that could be associated with a specific region. Indeed, the photographs of the sky over Havana and Washington might well have been taken from any location in the world. Both show: blue sky and light clouds. The effect of their billboard representation is a melting of the painted sky with the real sky over the two cities, each of which, incidentally, is identifiable from its characteristic architectural background.

The billboard images have their place in a long art-historical tradition of sky and cloud representations that experienced its first peak in the art of the romantic period. The paintings are both accessible and appealing to virtually everyone. While the artisans' rendition of the sky images claims an immediate, overarching importance, a sense of the deeper artistic motivation gathers force in the wake of further reflection.

A closer examination of *Changing skies / Cielos que cambian* reveals it to be a complex work, possessing both philosophical and political-diplomatic elements and conveying these through its subject with lightness and poesy.

Michael Klant, Jan. 28, 2002