

Marta Aquino

At tribute to Mario Coyula • The New School, New York • November 1, 2014

Dear friends,

I'll be brief because I don't want my feelings to get in the way of how I want to express my deep appreciation for this tribute, the blog in memory of Mayito, and also having given me the opportunity to share it all with you.

I also want to thank you on behalf of my son, Miguel Coyula, who is here with us, and of all our family and friends who are not here today.

I have to accept the absence of Mayito. It's an unquestionable reality, which his illness prepared me for. But I don't want to get used to it. And I say this because of the many times I saw Mayito complain about the outrages and abuses that negatively affected Havana's architecture and society.

One day I asked him to please look at these things without suffering so much. He responded, "If I don't suffer, I'll get used to seeing things badly done, and this is what I don't want to do."

Today I'm saying the same thing regarding his absence because it would be a form of forgetting and this is what I don't want to do either -- forget.

I can assure you that it doesn't take any effort to keep him in my memory, as in yours.

This tribute and the presence of so many friends is a demonstration of the professional esteem and affection that he left as he went through his life.