LLILAS Hosts
Haiti Photo Exhibit

IN CONJUNCTION with the Lozano Long Conference From Natural Events to Social Disasters in the Circum-Caribbean, LLILAS hosted the photo exhibit Haiti between Destruction and Hope February 23–April 8, 2011. The exhibit featured a series of composite images of post-earthquake Port-au-Prince by acclaimed photographer Maggie Steber.

Following the earthquake on January 12, 2010, Steber photographed the destruction along a quarter-mile stretch of the Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines—commonly known as the Grande Rue—a busy street that serves as both a commercial and cultural center in Haiti’s capital. The resulting composite image, which was featured in the New York Times’s coverage of the earthquake, depicts collapsed colonial buildings, local business owners, police guards, and a flurry of activity in the heart of Port-au-Prince. Accompanying the Grande Rue composites was a selection of photographs that highlight not only physical devastation but also hope and human agency in the face of disaster.

Maggie Steber is a University of Texas graduate in journalism who has worked as a documentary photographer in 61 countries. Her longtime work in Haiti received the prestigious Alicia Patterson Foundation Grant and the Ernst Haas Grant. A collection of the Haiti photographs was published in Dancing on Fire: Photographs from Haiti by Aperture. Steber was a contract photographer for Newsweek magazine for four years and has worked for several press agencies as well as the Associated Press in New York as a photo editor.