

DANZA DE LA CABRITA {THE GOAT'S DANCE}

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
GRACIELA ITURBIDE

DATE: November 28, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Graciela Iturbide
Mexican, born 1942
*Mujer ángel, desierto de Sonora [Angel
Woman, Sonora Desert]*, Mexico
Negative 1979; print about 2000
Gelatin silver print
Promised Gift of Daniel Greenberg and
Susan Steinhauser
L.2006.50.33

**MAJOR GETTY EXHIBITION EXPLORES
THE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK OF MEXICAN ARTIST
GRACIELA ITURBIDE**

*Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance:
Photographs by Graciela Iturbide*

At the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Center,
December 18, 2007-April 18, 2008

LOS ANGELES—An expansive presentation of the work of Mexico City-based photographer Graciela Iturbide will be on view in *Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance: Photographs by Graciela Iturbide*, at the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Center, December 18, 2007-April 18, 2008. The exhibition features more than 140 photographs drawn from the Museum's holdings, the collection of Daniel Greenberg and Susan Steinhauser, and the artist's own archives. *Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance* will concentrate on the artist's black-and-white work produced in Mexico, in Southern California, and on the U.S./Mexico border.

"Graciela Iturbide is one of the most important living artists in Mexico and we're extremely pleased to present this significant exhibition of her work," says Michael Brand, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "Her photographs tell a visual story of Mexican culture, which we hope will engage our own community here in Los Angeles, as well as visitors from abroad."

Graciela Iturbide (b. Mexico City, 1942) took up the medium of photography after her introduction to Manuel Alvarez Bravo at the Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinemagráficos Studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, where she was studying filmmaking in the late 1960s. Iturbide began making pictures on the streets of Mexico City and then quickly took up a more concentrated study of indigenous life and ritual, as had the artists and intellectuals of the Mexican Renaissance.

Since the 1970s, Iturbide has worked on projects portraying the traditional costume and festivals of various parts of the southern state of Oaxaca as well as the life and dangers of people

-more-



living in the northern-most part of her country, La Frontera (the border). She has visited other parts of Latin America, and, through awards and commissions over the past 15 years, has traveled widely, photographing in India, Italy, Mozambique, and the United States. Iturbide lives and works in Coyoacán, Mexico.

Among the subjects in ***Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance*** are the matriarchal society of Juchitán, Oaxaca; the annual Mixteca ritual of slaughtering the goats; her 1986 experience with members of two Los Angeles gangs (White Fence and Maravilla); pictures created on visits to Tijuana in the 1990s; and landscapes produced on travel in Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Mississippi in the late 1990s.

It was in Juchitán, where Iturbide created the celebrated, *Juchitán of Women*. Her decade-long project began in 1979 when she traveled there to study its inhabitants. This Zapotec Indian town has a distinct culture and way of life, notable for the dominance of women in commercial and political spheres.

The subject of mortality has also been central to her work. From x-ray images to natural history museum displays, the recently slaughtered corpse of a lamb, a gang member's tattooed neck, or the dancing figures of the large independent women of Juchitán, many of Iturbide's pictures focus on the body. Traveling through several realities, she presents hybrid creatures, ominous bird forms, skinned animals, severed limbs, the accumulation of bones, and images of death. In many ways, Iturbide works in an even more visceral style than some of her predecessors, like Bravo, Frida Kahlo, and Remedios Varo. Her photographs help to maintain the strong surrealist vein in Mexican art recognized by French poet André Breton in the 1930s.

Judy Keller, associate curator, in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum, is the curator for the exhibition. ***Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance: Photographs by Graciela Iturbide*** is sponsored by **Banamex-Citi**.

#

MEDIA CONTACT: Beth Brett
Getty Communications
310-440-6473
bbrett@getty.edu

Danza de la Cabrita/The Goat's Dance: Photographs by Graciela Iturbide is sponsored by **Banamex-Citi**, Mexico's premier bank and the U.S. banking arm of Banco Nacional de Mexico. Citibank (Banamex USA), provides full-service banking for companies and individuals that do business in Mexico and the United States.

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

Visiting the Getty Center:

The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed Monday and major holidays. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is \$8. No reservation required. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. For more information, call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish); 310-440-7305 (TTY line for the deaf or hearing impaired).

Additional information is available at *www.getty.edu*.

Sign up for **e-Getty** at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.