

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART MOUNTS MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WORK OF MEXICAN MASTER MANUEL ALVAREZ BRAVO

First Exhibition to Examine His Entire Career

Rare Vintage Prints Featured, Including 80  
Works from the Artist's Personal Collection

Many Images Not Seen Since They Were First Exhibited in the 1930s

**EXHIBITION** *Manuel Alvarez Bravo*

**DATES** February 20–May 18, 1997

**ORGANIZATION** Organized by Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography,  
The Museum of Modern Art

**SPONSORSHIP** The exhibition is supported in part by a grant from the  
Mex-Am Cultural Foundation, Inc.

**CONTENT** *Manuel Alvarez Bravo* presents the first comprehensive look at the  
career of this leading modern artist and the only photographer among  
the great 20th-century Mexican artists.

Born in 1902, Alvarez Bravo's career began in the thriving artistic environment of post-revolutionary Mexico, in the company of artists such as Diego Rivera, Alfaro Siqueiros, and José Clemente Orozco. Over the course of his long and productive career, the artist's vast body of work has ranged from formal experiments in the 1920s, through modernist works inspired by such international trends as Surrealism, to the realization of a gifted personal style in the early 1930s that suggests specific Mexican customs and rituals.

The exhibition will include some 175 photographs from all phases of the artist's career. The chronological organization of the exhibition will emphasize the recurrence of certain elements in the artist's work—sympathy for the lower classes, an air of mystery, a sense of the surreal, and a preoccupation with death.

Ms. Kismaric conducted many interviews with the artist and worked closely with him and his wife, Colette Alvarez Urbjatel, to select the work for the exhibition.

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## PUBLICATION

*Manuel Alvarez Bravo*, by Susan Kismaric. 240 pages; 215 illustrations, including 175 tritone plates. Ms. Kismaric's extensive interviews with Alvarez Bravo are incorporated into her essay. She also examines for the first time how Alvarez Bravo's work is connected with European photography of the 1920s through his contact with magazines and his friendship with Tina Modotti. Clothbound, \$60.00, distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and paperbound, \$27.50; both available in The MoMA Book Store.

## TRAVEL

A tour is currently being planned.

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