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TORRIJOS: THE MAN AND THE MYTH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRACIELA ITURBIDE
AN UMBRAGE EDITIONS TRAVELING EXHIBITION

In the annals of Latin American politics, Omar Torrijos of Panama was a David against Goliath, a charismatic leader who challenged the landed rabiblanco (white tails) oligarchy, redistributed land and wealth, and died tragically in a 1981 plane crash widely rumored to be the work of the CIA.

The Torrijos legend is of a man of action, yet an introspective thinker. Known for macho swagger: They will find us standing or dead, but never on our knees!, he is also remembered for the poetic, even romantic: He who gives love, receives love.

This is a unique, intensely personal homage to Torrijos by two giant talents, the great Mexican photographer Graciela Iturbide, who befriended Torrijos in the 1970s and photographed this period of social upheaval in Panama, and the Nobel Prize-winning Columbian writer Garcia Marquez. It shows Torrijos in never-before-published photographs and never-before-told personal reminiscences, offering up candles of memory. Marquez describes a moody, lonely president drinking whiskey all night, and in predawn, summoning one of six different women he had relationships with to keep away the demons.

This homage by two friends is meant as a corrective to history. Hardly a dictator who silenced opposition, closed the media, ran up debt, and turned a blind eye to corruption, instead they argue for Torrijos as a flawed hero in the footsteps of Simon Bolivar: the first Panamanian leader to advocate for the majority population—the poor and mestizo (indigenous, Hispanic, and African), an innovator who opened schools and job opportunities for the less fortunate, initiating wide-ranging social and economic reforms. But his greatest legacy and gift to his people was the Canal Treaty, signed with President Carter in 1977, giving the people of Panama Control over the big ditch.

With Torrijos son Martin now wearing his father's mantle as the young and dynamic president of Panama, the circle of history is complete. This is a memoir of love and redemption about a man ahead of his time, told with power and pathos.

BIOGRAPHY

GRACIELA ITURBIDE studied filmmaking and still photography at the Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematograficos at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico from 1969-1972 and apprenticed with Manuel Alvarez Bravo in 1970-1971. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held around the world, including OMC Gallery for Contemporary Art, Dusseldorf; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Robert Miller Gallery, New York; Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Monterey, Mexico; and Casa del Lago, New Mexico. She is the recipient of a Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography (1987) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1988) and is one of Latin America's major artists. She is the author of three books and many catalogues. She lives in Mexico City.

The Colombian-born writer **GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ** is winner of the 1982 Nobel Prize, winning international fame with his masterpiece, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, a defining classic of twentieth-century literature. His many novels create a world of great beauty and great cruelty, where love brings both redemption and enslavement, and where the lines between objective reality and dreams are hopelessly blurred.

UMBRAGE EDITIONS, based in New York City, is a packager of high-quality visual books, traveling exhibitions, and multi-media projects. Founded in 1991 by Nan Richardson, former editor of *Aperture* and editor of over 150 books for Random House, *Twin Palms*, *Bulfinch*, *Abrams*, and others, Umbrage Editions works on the creation of content-rich books, exhibitions, websites, theatre productions, and CD-ROMs, from their conception to development and final production. We also offer many titles in foreign language editions. In the past, published works have varied in subject matter from pop culture to global human rights, from the closets of drag queens to the runways of fashion, from classic photojournalism to cutting-edge art.

Umbrage traveling exhibitions have toured to venues worldwide, including: The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL; The Fashion Institute of Technology, New York; The Newseum in New York, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, CA; The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, CA; The Dayton Art Institute, OH; The Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; The George Eastman House: International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA; P.S. 1, New York; Parc de la Villette, Paris, France; and Fototeca in Havana, Cuba.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

By Graciela Iturbide

- Hardcover / 9 x 9 inches
- 112 pages / 70 b+w Photographs
- ISBN 978-1-884167-68-3
- US \$40.00

EXHIBITION FACTS

2007-2012 DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TOUR

Total 72 items to occupy 100 linear feet:

- 19 gelatin-silver prints at approximately 8 x 10 in, varying sizes, framed
- 11 gelatin-silver prints at 16 x 16 in. framed
- 10 gelatin-silver prints at 10 x 10 in. framed
- 3 gelatin-silver prints at 30 x 40 in. matted with a 4-ply archival board
- 2 gelatin-silver prints at 30 x 30 in. matted with a 4-ply archival board
- 1 gelatin-silver print at 40 x 30 in. matted with a 4-ply archival board
- 1 gelatin-silver print at 30 x 60 in. matted with a 4-ply archival board
- Crates: 3 Total (350 lbs.)
 - 2 @ 44 x 35 x 36 in.
 - 1 @ 30 x 22 x 34 in.
 - 1 @ 64 x 20 x 35 in.

- 6-8 week bookings
- Fee: \$5,900 plus roundtrip shipping and insurance
- Artist available for panels and lectures
- 15 free copies of catalog / publication *Torrijos* included with each booking
- CD with 47 bilingual captions (English and Spanish)

www.umbragegallery.com

For more information,
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