A SHADOW BORN OF EARTH: New Photography in Mexico
&
CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY

January 16 - February 20, 1994

OPENING RECEPTION: 3 - 5 p.m., Sunday, January 16, 1994

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will begin the new year with two exhibitions that recognize Mexico's vitality in the art of photography and the prominent role of photography in Mexican art since the early part of this century.

The work of 35 Mexican photographers, encompassing three generations, will be featured in "Contemporary Mexican Photography." Ninety works document the complex mixture of traditions and beliefs that makes up the culture of Mexico today.

"The richness and diversity of the Mexican people and their culture is captured eloquently by Contemporary Mexican photographers," says Anne Tucker, curator of photography for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and curator of the exhibition. "This exhibition presents an opportunity to showcase their distinct style, which has evolved from a mixture of cultural influences and from a strong and internationally recognized literary and artistic heritage."

Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the exhibition is made possible by Target Stores and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

"A SHADOW BORN OF EARTH: New Photography in Mexico" is the first comprehensive survey of the work of the newest generation of Mexican photographers to be presented in this country.

While the "Contemporary" exhibition traces the work of the widely known and admired pioneer photographers such as Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Ignacio López, Mariana Yampolsky, Victor Flores Olea, and Pedro Meyer, "A Shadow Born of Earth" surveys the work of 16 current Mexican photographers, such as Laura Cohen, Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, Gerardo Suter, and Eugenia Vargas. This talented new generation of artists has been previously relatively unknown outside their country.
Curated by Elizabeth Ferrer, an independent curator and critic specializing in Latin American art and photography, the exhibition features 77 recent works by 16 photographers, many of them under the age of 40.

The work of this new generation is grounded in the strong Mexican tradition of socially aware black-and-white photography. However, the variety of experimental approaches employed by the current generation gives new meaning to the art form of photography in the context of contemporary Mexican society.

“A Shadow Born of Earth” is organized and circulated by The American Federation of the Arts. It is sponsored by a generous grant from Professional Imaging, Eastman Kodak Company. Additional support has been provided by the Benefactors Circle of the AFA.

The exhibitions are free and open to the public.

The museum, located at 410 W. Boyd St., is open from 10 to 4:30 p.m. on Tues., Wed., and Fri.; 10 to 9 p.m. on Thurs., and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Sat. and Sun.. Free parking passes, usable in the reserved spaces on the north ends of the Parrington (north) Oval, can be obtained at the museum’s security desk.

For further information or to make arrangements for group tours, please call (405) 325-3272.

Accommodation on the basis of disability can be made by calling (405) 325-3272.