



**Photography in Mexico from the Collection of SFMOMA is on view at the Bakersfield Museum of Art from September 11, 2014, through January 4, 2015.**

"SFMOMA's attitude toward photography embraces the Pacific Rim and the larger world," says Sandra Phillips, senior curator of photography at SFMOMA and the organizer of the tour of *The Provoke Era*. "So many Californians have ties to Japan, going back generations. It's natural that we would want to take this exhibition on tour and help more people get to know a part of photography that is still underexamined."

*The Provoke Era* looks at the avant-garde tradition that emerged in Tokyo in the 1960s and 1970s, when a generation of Japanese photographers responded to the upheaval of the post-World War II era by creating a new visual language dubbed "Are, Bure, Boke"—rough, blurred, and out of focus. Named for the magazine *Provoke*, which sought to break the rules of traditional photography, the exhibition features roughly 100 works by photographers including Masahisa Fukase, Eikoh Hosoe, Daido Moriyama, and Shōmei Tōmatsu. SFMOMA started collecting these artists' work in the 1970s, when they were little known in the United States; since then, the museum's collection of Japanese photography has grown to become this country's largest.

Exploring another fertile region of SFMOMA's collection, *Photography in Mexico* offers "just a taste of the rich photographic tradition that has flourished in Mexico since the Revolution," says SFMOMA Curator of Photography Corey Keller, organizer of the tour. The exhibition begins in the 1920s with the medium's first artistic flowering in Mexico. It goes on to explore the explosion of the illustrated press at midcentury; the documentary investigations of cultural traditions and urban politics that emerged in the 1970s and 1980s; and more recent considerations of urban life and globalization. Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Lola Álvarez

# ON THE ROAD

*Highlights from the photography collection travel to communities around the state.*

SFMOMA has long been a destination for anyone interested in photography, drawing visitors from near and far with a stellar collection and a reputation for revelatory exhibitions. Now photo fans across California can experience selections of pictures from the museum's collection right in their own hometowns, thanks to an unprecedented statewide exhibition tour.

The two traveling exhibitions highlight particular strengths of SFMOMA's holdings and explore

themes resonant with California's diverse communities. *Photography in Mexico from the Collection of SFMOMA* opens at the Bakersfield Museum of Art this September after a run at the Sonoma County Museum in 2013-14, and will travel to Stockton in 2015; *The Provoke Era: Japanese Photography from the Collection of SFMOMA* will be on view at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento beginning in October, moving on to Riverside next year.



**The Provoke Era: Japanese Photography from the Collection of SFMOMA is on view at the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, from October 12, 2014, through February 1, 2015.**

Bravo, Manuel Carrillo, Graciela Iturbide, Elsa Medina, Tina Modotti, Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, Edward Weston, and Mariana Yampolsky are among the artists featured.

“Our hope is that by making the show available around the state of California we might introduce the work to new audiences and deepen the appreciation of those who are already familiar with it,” Keller says. “It’s a real pleasure to be able to share our collection while our building is under construction. Each new partnership has been a learning experience for us, too.”

Both *Photography in Mexico* and *The Provoke Era* are made possible by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation and by Bank of America, which has been supporting SFMOMA for 33 years; Bank of America California State President Janet Lamkin, an SFMOMA trustee since 2007, has been a great champion of the exhibition tour.

This tour is only the latest manifestation of SFMOMA’s core commitment to collecting and exhibiting photography, a commitment that will grow even deeper with the 2016 opening of the John and Lisa Pritzker Center for Photography, the nation’s largest exhibition space devoted to the medium. As Phillips says, “We’re interested in helping a wider public understand photography as a distinct and centrally important form of art making—and as a medium that deals with the world at large in unique and very personal ways.”

The California photography tour is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The exhibitions are made possible by a major grant from The James Irvine Foundation and by Bank of America.



Facing page: Graciela Iturbide, *La Nuestra Señora de las Iguanas, Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico* (Our Lady of the Iguanas, Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico), 1979; Collection SFMOMA, gift of the artist; © Graciela

Iturbide. Above, top: Yvonne Venegas, *Nirvana* from the series *Maria Elvia De Hank*, 2006; Collection SFMOMA; © Yvonne Venegas. Above, bottom: Shōmei Tōmatsu, *Eiko Ōshima, Actress*

*in the Film Shiiku* (Prize Stock), 1961. Promised gift of the Kurenboh Collection; © Estate of Shōmei Tōmatsu—Interface.

