Pride of Place

Between 1979 and 1988, Graciela Iturbide created a series of photographs documenting Juchitán’s ancient, matriarchal community. For over a century, the socially and politically independent women of Juchitán—in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico—have been viewed as symbols of national strength.
Cuatro Pescaditos (Four Fish), Juchitán, Oaxaca, Mexico, 1986

Take a closer look

The photographs of Graciela Iturbide (b. 1942) provide glimpses of everyday life in Juchitán, such as religious festivals and domestic settings. Iturbide’s use of sharp angles, low perspectives, and nuanced values of gray lend these fleeting moments a timeless quality.

In her own words

“I just take photos of what surprises me and what I like. I am never looking for something special. No, it is what I find and what makes me feel an emotion that I wanted to photograph.”

Who knew?

Iturbide does not hide behind her lens when photographing her subjects. Upon arrival in a new place, she quickly becomes acquainted with the townspeople. In return, the residents invite her into their lives and often let her stay in their homes.

Graciela Iturbide, Cuatro Pescaditos (Four Fish), Juchitán, Oaxaca, Mexico, 1986; Gelatin silver print; 18¼ x 15 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Charles and Teresa Friedlander, in honor of his mother, Jacqueline S. Friedlander; © Graciela Iturbide