

MANUEL ÁLVAREZ BRAVO: EVERYDAY THEATRE
24 MAR – 22 MAY 2022

*"I believe that when a person is attentive to reality, he finds all that is fantastic.
People don't realise the fantasy that life itself contains"*
Manuel Álvarez Bravo

Everyday Theatre is a new exhibition of rare lifetime prints from **Manuel Álvarez Bravo** (1902 - 2002) – a master of modernism and one of the most important figures in 20th century Latin American photography.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Álvarez Bravo's career as a photographer spanned the greater part of the 20th century, and his distinctive images both illustrate and embody Mexico's changing social and cultural landscape over this period.

Largely self-taught, he began experimenting with the medium in his teenage years, at the tail-end of the Mexican Revolution – an event that inevitably affected his approach to image-making. Although his early work reflects the influence of European artistic movements, his subject matter is rooted in his immediate landscape and those who inhabited it, and he soon became entranced by the Mexican muralism movement and the general cultural and political push to redefine Mexican identity. Álvarez Bravo was part of an international circle of avant-garde artists including photographers Tina Modotti, Edward Weston and fellow Mexican artists, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, many of whom appear in his images, and whose practices and ideas helped refine his own creative identity.

He was highly adept technically, favouring the complex platinum printing process (first introduced to him by Modotti in 1928) which allowed him to find exactly the right tonalities for his work and showcased his immense skills in the darkroom. Although he had to abandon this process for a large part of his career, due to difficulty obtaining the right materials, he was able to come back to the technique in the 1970s and remained committed to it for the rest of his life.

Whether motivated by ideas of modernism, social documentary, surrealist experimentation, or compositional arrangements, Álvarez Bravo's work is deeply rooted in indigenous Mexican culture. Resolute in his rejection of both the picturesque and stereotyping, his intention as a photographer was in capturing and elevating the scenes he witnessed around him. His quietly poetic, rhythmic compositions turned the ordinary into the noteworthy, the prosaic into theatre.

This special exhibition celebrates Álvarez Bravo's distinctive eye and place in 20th century Mexico, and marks his long-standing relationship with The Photographers' Gallery. The Print Sales team works directly with the Manuel Álvarez Bravo Estate and is in the unique position to offer these increasingly rare, signed lifetime prints for public sale.

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tpg.org.uk

The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548.
The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208.
VAT registration no. GB645332251.

Prices starting from \$6,600 with all works available to purchase directly from printsales.thephotographersgallery.org.uk.

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

**For further press information and image requests, please contact:
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Notes for Editors

Full artist bio available on request

Print Sales

Print Sales at The Photographers' Gallery is committed to offering expert advice to a new generation of collectors as well as major buyers, corporate collections and public institutions. It strives to provide opportunities for supporting and promoting emerging photographic talent alongside more established names. Print Sales currently represents thirty-five photographers and offers British and international, modern and vintage work for sale. In addition to these Print Sales also offers rare buying opportunities through its scheme of Gallery Editions in which world-renowned photographers and artists donate a limited-edition print of their work to help support the Gallery. Each year the Print Sales space stages five selling exhibitions highlighting the works of its represented photographers. All profits from the sale of photographic works at Print Sales goes back to support the public programme of The Photographers' Gallery. To see the full list of represented photographers and works available for purchase please visit www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

(please check website for latest opening information)

Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00 – 18.00

Thursday & Friday (Late opening): 10.00 – 20.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 18.00

Sunday: 11.00 – 18.00

General Admission: £5 / £2.50 Concessions. Fridays 18.00 - 20.00 Free for everyone

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Social media

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