Bates College Museum of Art 2011-2012, Celebrating 25 Years

September 3 – October 29

Manuel Alvarez Bravo: Fotografías de México (1933-1976)

Curated by Dan Mills Synergy Space

Manuel Alvarez Bravo (1902 – 2002) is recognized as one of the foremost figures in the history of photography and one of the great Mexican artists of the twentieth century. Born in Mexico City, Bravo began taking photographs while in his teens. However, it was during the post-revolutionary period of the 1920s and 1930s that his photographs developed into the mature work he is now internationally recognized for. Self-taught, Bravo created a substantial body of work during a career that spans eight decades. This exhibition will include fifteen images from the 1930s – the 1970s.

All of Bravo's photographs are deeply rooted in the culture, people and landscape of Mexico. He captures intimate moments, the everyday, the mysterious, rural and urban life, and life and death during a century that saw tremendous changes. His finely composed photographs poetically frame the complexities of life in Mexico.

Curricular Connections: (Depts.) Anthropology; Art and Visual Culture; History; Philosophy; (GECs) Beauty and Desire; Culture and Meaning; Latin American Studies; Material Culture; Post Colonial Issues in French and Spanish; Producing Culture; and courses that include the study of Indigenous people, Mexico, and twentieth century history, among many other topics, may find the exhibition a useful resource.

Selected images:



Que Chiquito es el Mundo, 1970



Margarita de Bonompak, 1949



Tentaciones en Casa de Antonio, 1970



Ventana a los Magueyes, 1976



Cruce de Chalma, 1942



La Vista, 1935