

Conference on photographer Tina Modotti planned at UCSD

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CONFERENCE ON PHOTOGRAPHER TINA MODOTTI PLANNED AT UCSD

Modotti 1896-1996, a conference on the internationally acclaimed Italian-born artist, actress and political activist Tina Modotti will be held Nov. 7-9 at the University of California, San Diego. The conference coincides with the 100th year of her birth.

Sponsored by the UCSD Department of Literature, the University Art Gallery, and the UCSD Center for Humanities, the conference will feature scholars of international reputation who are known for their research on Modotti, and/or the circumstances which surrounded her and contributed to her fame during her 45 years, August 17, 1896 to January 5, 1942 when she died in Mexico City.

The conference is being held in conjunction with a major exhibition of Modotti's photographs of Mexico, including 78 which are recently discovered. Some of these photographs have not been exhibited or published since Modotti's lifetime. The exhibition also includes more than 40 published photographs. Kathleen Stoughton is University Art Gallery director.

The first day of the conference, Nov. 7, will feature the exhibition opening, a private reception and dinner, and a presentation at 7 p.m. by Gregorio Luke, cultural attache for the Consulate General of Mexico.

Day two of the conference, Nov. 8, will be A Definition of Modotti's Social and Political Activism. The topic at 9 a.m. is Modotti's Art: Toward a Nomadic Cultural Politics. Speakers will be Mary Russo, literary and cultural critic and professor at Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass.; Pasquale Verdicchio, conference chair and literary and cultural critic, the Department of Literature, UCSD, and Marguerite Waller, literary and cultural critic, film maker and professor of English at the University of California, Riverside.

The 10:45 a.m. topic will be The Struggle Against Fascism and the Spanish Civil War. Speakers include Christiane Barckhausen-Canale, who has done extensive research on Modotti and is founder and director of the Tina Modotti Archive in Berlin, Germany; Letizia Argentieri, historian at both the University of San Diego and UCLA who has published widely on Italian history, and Robert D'Attilio, an independent scholar living in Boston who has written articles on Italian- American radicalism and Tina Modotti.

Afternoon sessions will begin at 2 p.m with Riccardo Toffoletti, director of the Modotti Foundation in Udine, Italy, discussing Modotti's Italian days. A screening of a Modotti documentary by Peter Wollen, a professor in the Department of Film and Television at UCLA, will follow at 3 p.m.

Day three of the conference, Nov. 9, at 9 a.m., Patricia Albers, an independent curator and visual arts writer in the San Francisco Bay area who discovered the new photographs and is writing a book about Modotti, will discuss Recent Developments in Modotti's Body of Work. The 10:30 a.m. topic will be Tina Modotti's Photography: Aesthetic and Social Change. The speakers will include Amy Conger, art historian in Riverside who has published on the works of photographer Edward Weston and Tina Modotti; Sarah Lowe, art historian who co-curated a

Modotti exhibition for the Philadelphia Museum of Art and edited a catalog for the exhibition, and Susan Caperna Lloyd, photographer and writer in Jacksonville, Oregon, who has shown photography documenting religious rituals in Italy and Mexico.

At noon, Elena Poniatowska, writer, historian and cultural critic in Mexico City and author of *Tinissima*, a novel based on the life of Tina Modotti, will speak and sign her books.

At 2:30, Poniatowska and John Mraz, senior researcher at the Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades in Mexico and coauthor of *Mexico, 1910-1960: Brehme, Casasola, Kahlo, Lopez, Modotti*, will speak on Modotti in Mexico. At 3:10 p.m., there will be a screening of Mexico City film maker, artist and journalist Alejandra Islas's film on Modotti, and at 4:15 p.m. there will be a roundtable discussion on Modotti and the film by Wollen, Waller, Islas, Verdicchio and Carroll Blue, film maker and professor at San Diego State University.

The conference events are free and open to the public.

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