

UCSD to present Tina Modotti photographic exhibition; recently discovered, unpublished works included

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UCSD TO PRESENT TINA MODOTTI PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS; RECENTLY DISCOVERED, UNPUBLISHED WORKS INCLUDED

Opening Nov. 7, 1996, at the University Art Gallery, UCSD, is Tina Modotti: Selected Photographs. This exhibition, along with the concurrent Dear Vocio...Photographs by Tina Modotti, will present more than 120 works by and about the early 20th century photographer Tina Modotti.

Tina Modotti: Selected Photographs is curated by Kathleen Stoughton, director of the University Art Gallery, and Maria Teresa Fernandez, guest curator. This exhibit includes more than 40 published photographs by Tina Modotti, as well as images of Modotti created by Edward Weston, Abel Plenn, Arnold Schroeder, Johan Hagemeyer, Wallace Seely, and Roubaix de L'Abrie Richey.

Dear Vocio...Photographs by Tina Modotti includes 78 vintage photographs, many of which have not been exhibited or published since Modotti's lifetime. The photographs were gifts from Modotti to Rose Richey, who was the mother of her companion, Roubaix (Robo) de L'Abrie Richey. Modotti fondly nicknamed Robo's mother Vocio which means Imumbler I in Italian.

Known as a photographer of Mexico, the Italian-born Modotti's distinction rests on her photographic output from 1923 to 1930 when she lived in Mexico and was an integral part of the artistic world of Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Jose Clemente Orozco, to name a few. She is best known for powerful images which fuse an elegant formalism with incisive political content.

Some of the photographs in Dear Vocio... were taken in the summer of 1926 as Modotti and photographer Edward Weston traveled around Mexico to make images for Mexican writer Anita Brenner's book, *Idols Behind Altars*. Modotti's photographs from this trip reveal a strong empathy with the Indians of Mexico. Other images in Dear Vocio... were taken in Mexico City, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and the town of Xochimilco, site of Mexico's famous floating gardens. Many of these photographs are captioned in Modotti's own hand.

Dear Vocio... is curated by San Francisco Bay area independent curator Patricia Albers. The exhibition is selected from a recently uncovered cache of Modotti documents which were stored by Rose Richey and her relatives for more than 60 years.

The University Art Gallery, UCSD, will publish a catalog to accompany Dear Vocio... . The catalog will include reproductions of a selection of the newly-discovered photographs, as well as essays by Albers and UCSD literature professor Pasquale Verdicchio.

Major funding for the exhibitions is from the H. Kenneth Branson Family Trust.

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the University Art Gallery, the UCSD Center for the Humanities and the Department of Literature are sponsoring a three-day conference on Tina Modotti, Nov. 7-9, 1996, featuring scholars and critics in the fields of art history, history, cultural studies, literature, film, women's studies, political science and journalism. Included will be lectures, panel discussions and films, all pertaining to the life and art of Tina Modotti. The conference is the first international meeting on Tina Modotti to take place in North America.

Opening reception for both exhibitions is Nov. 7 from 8:30 to 10 p.m. The opening is preceded by a slide lecture by Gregorio Luke, cultural attache for the Consulate General of Mexico. He will speak on Tina Modotti: A Woman of the World at 7 p.m. in Mandeville Auditorium. The University Art Gallery is located at the west end of Mandeville Center on the UCSD campus in La Jolla. The exhibitions continue through Jan. 11, 1997. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact gallery director Kathleen Stoughton at (619) 534-0419.

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