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Tina Modotti: Some Photographs

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Untitled,

Museum of Modern Art

TINA  
MODOTTI  
*SOME PHOTOGRAPHS*



Tina Modotti, 1924, by Edward Weston

## A NOTE

*“I consider myself a photographer, nothing more.”*

For many years it was impossible to obtain Modotti photographs for publication. Although during her lifetime she was published in *International Literature*, a Soviet publication, and was a frequent contributor to *Mexican Folkways*, following her death her name and her works were shrouded in mystery. But there has always been a group of people interested in the work of this great woman photographer. With the publication of the *Daybooks* of Edward Weston, her name, her face, and her body broke through the veil that kept her from our sight. The Museum of Modern Art, which had received anonymously a group of her photographs are now at last willing to share them. With their help and that of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, we are thus able to present this small gathering of her work. The political as well as the human quality of Tina Modotti's photographs are paramount in her work. She has stated: *“Photography, precisely because it can only be produced in the present and because it is based on what exists objectively before the camera, takes its place as the most satisfactory medium of registering objective life in all its aspects, and from this comes its documental value. If to this is added sensibility and understanding above all, a clear orientation as to the place it should have in the field of historical development, I believe that the result is something worthy of a place in social production, to which we should all contribute.”* *Mexican Folkways*, 5 (1929), 198. The photographs in this tiny selection record forever the Mexican people in the coils of social change, burdened with poverty but full of remarkable dignity. Born in Udine, Italy, in August, 1896, Tina Modotti spent her adult life in anti-fascist activities, moving from Italy to the United States, to Mexico, to Spain during the Spanish Civil war; she eventually returned to Mexico where, in 1942, she died a tragic and mysterious death.

L·U·B



Roses, Mexico, 1924,

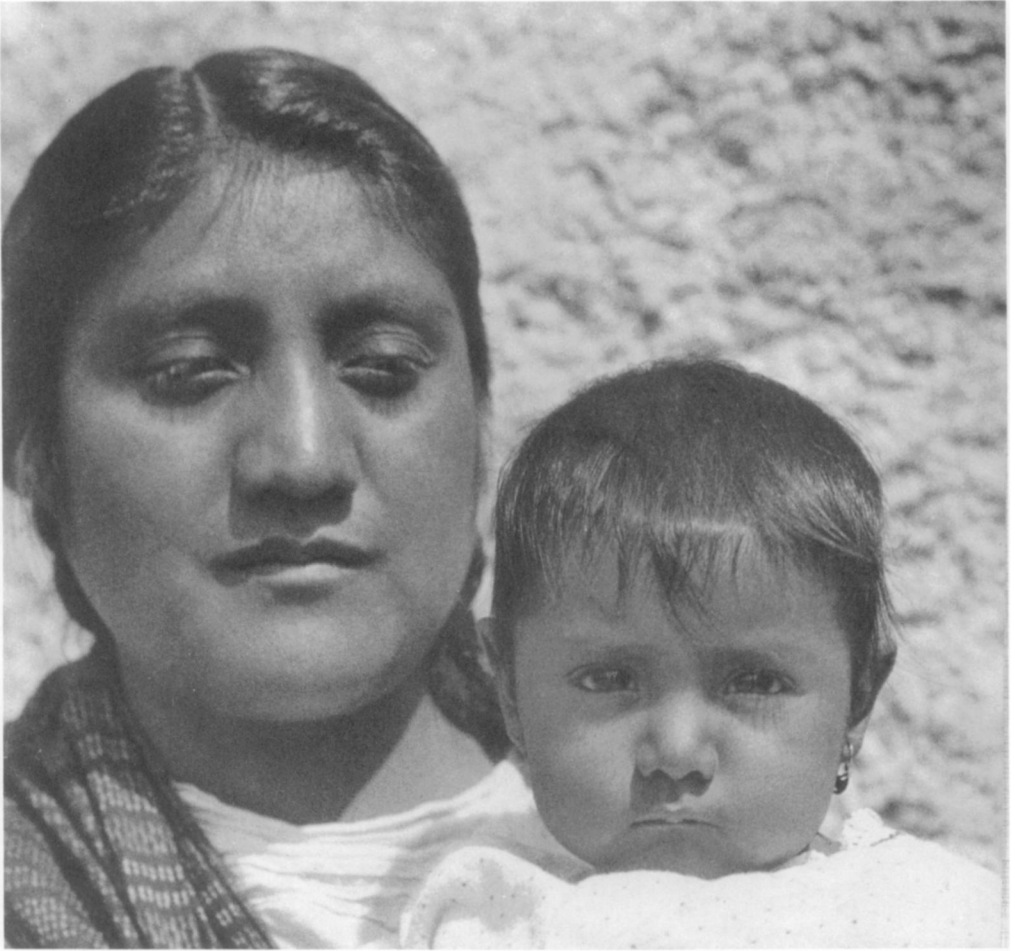
Museum of Modern Art. Gift of E. Weston



Woman Carrying Naked Baby, Mexico, 1929,

Philadelphia Museum of Art





Untitled,

Museum of Modern Art, Anonymous gift



Untitled,

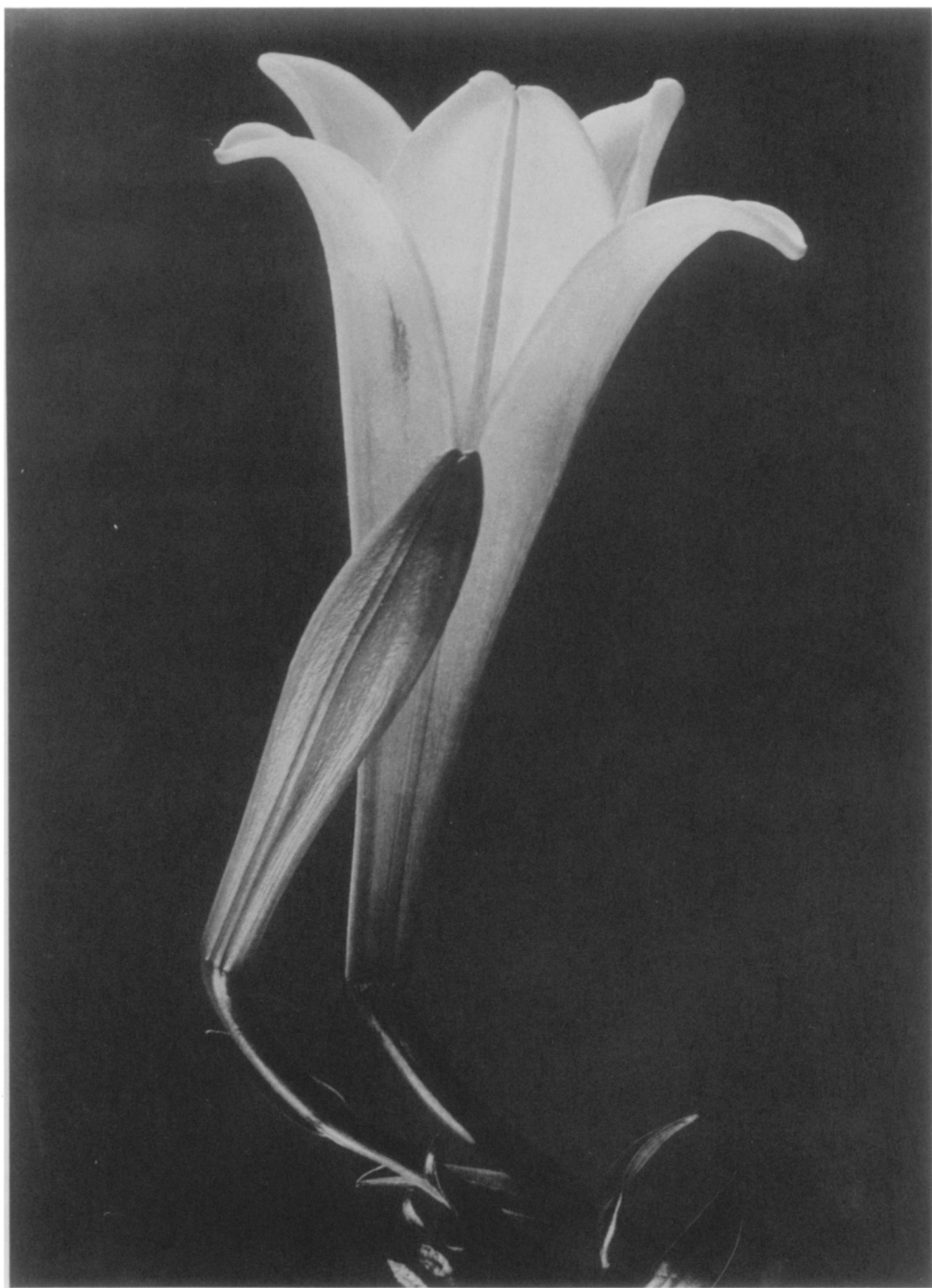
Museum of Modern Art, Anonymous gift





Untitled,

Museum of Modern Art, Anonymous gift



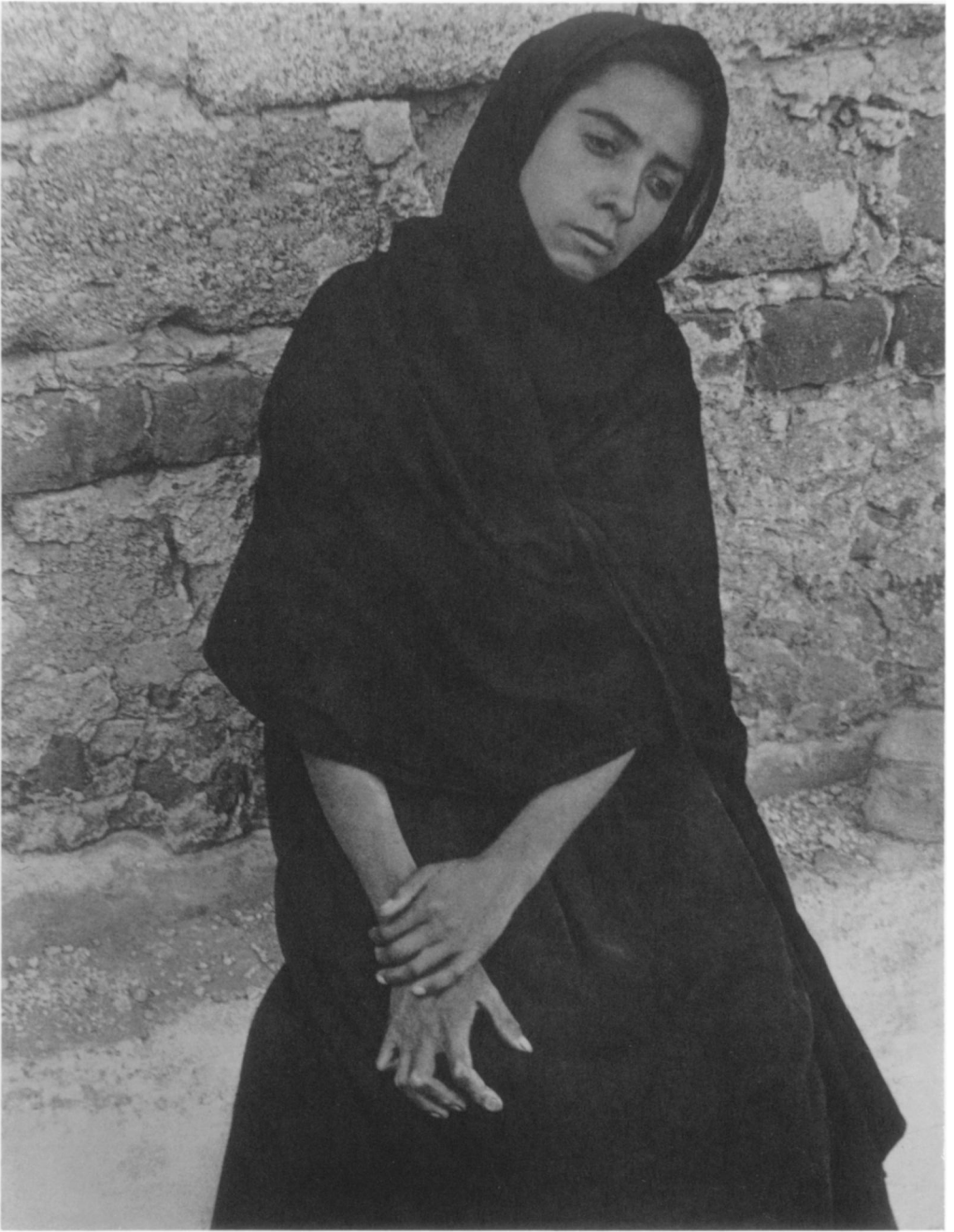
Easter Lily and Bud,

Museum of Modern Art. Gift of Dorothy M. Haskins



Untitled,

*Mexican Folkways*



Mexican Woman, Elisa, 1924,

Museum of Modern Art. Gift of Edward Weston



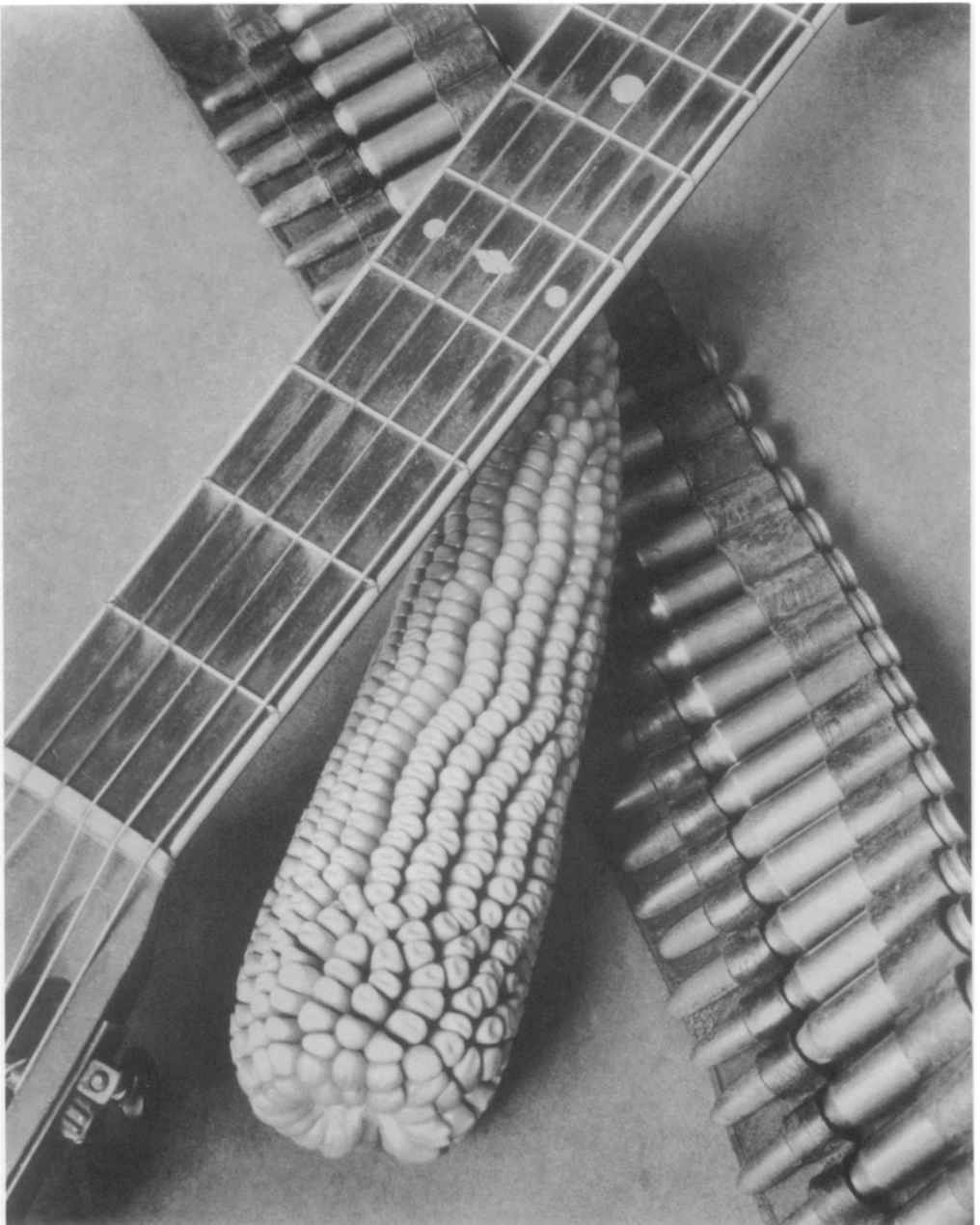


Illustration to a Mexican Song,

Museum of Modern Art. Anonymous gift