



Graciela Iturbide, *Gossipers*, 1986 (Juchitán, Oaxaca).

## Graciela Iturbide

# THE MYSTIQUE OF DAILY LIFE

Graciela Iturbide uses the camera to discover the world. Her lens participates in the lives of men and women, in their fiestas, rites and customs, to deliver images that capture the mystique of daily life.

Graciela's camera has been recognized in Mexico and abroad for pictures like the ones she took in *Juchitán de las mujeres* (Juchitán of Women) (Elena Poniatowska and Graciela Iturbide [Mexico City: Ediciones Toledo, 1989]), a place unlike any other in Mexico, where women experience their eroticism without apology and enjoy men without inhibition. The words of Elena Poniatowska join with Graciela's images to transport us to that Zapotec land that women are mistresses of, to the delight of their men. It is they who organize the economy, both in the home and of the town, who trade in the market, who keep tradition alive, participate in protest marches, defy the law and face life with a smile on their faces and in their sexes.

Graciela Iturbide, born in Mexico City, studied at the UNAM University Center for Cinematographic Studies and at master photographer Manuel Alvarez Bravo's workshop. She has ventured into film and contributed to numerous Mexican newspapers and magazines.