



## Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide

*Isabel Quintero (Contributor), Zeke Peña (Illustrations)*

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**Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide** Isabel Quintero (Contributor) , Zeke Peña (Illustrations)  
Graciela Iturbide was born in México City in 1942, the oldest of 13 children. When tragedy struck Iturbide as a young mother, she turned to photography for solace and understanding. From then on Iturbide embarked on a photographic journey that has taken her throughout her native México, from the Sonora Desert to Juchitán to Frida Kahlo's bathroom, to the United States, India, and beyond. *Photographic* is a symbolic, poetic, and deeply personal graphic biography of this iconic photographer. Iturbide's journey will excite readers of all ages as well as budding photographers, who will be inspired by her resolve, talent, and curiosity.

## Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide Details

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Author : Isabel Quintero (Contributor) , Zeke Peña (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide for online ebook**

### **Richard says**

An interesting and thought-provoking book.

Graciela Iturbide was an artist first but was born into a society where women confirmed.

Getting married and raising a family didn't complete her and finally she enrolled into film school, later to become an apprentice photographer.

She has had a long and successful career as an award-winning photographer and never leaves home without her camera.

This is a wonderful insight into her creative life; her influences and personal approach to her art.

I loved her style and vision which makes one marvel at such a humble person who is accepted everywhere she travels and captures her images.

This book is a great advocate for equality and diversity and seeing life with fresh eyes. We visit many places in our world all armed with mobile phones and basically take the same pictures. We are so full of ourselves we repeatedly take selfies and crave likes.

Maybe we can learn from this strong woman to be less conservative and so eager to confirm and explore our world with fresh eyes.

I have always loved photography and Graciela's story has taught me so much more than the standard books one gets to explore a hobby.

Not so much just How to, but How to be, to live, to see.

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### **Lata says**

Interesting introduction to Mexican photographer Graciela Iturbide. I liked the use of comic line drawings+photographs to give us a small taste of both the woman and her work. The few of Graciela Iturbide's photographs that are featured in this book are haunting.

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### **Sylvia says**

I loved it. This is a book written by a poet and an artist, and because of that both language and image intertwine in the most beautiful way. Isabel Quintero and Zeke Peña, use their particular languages to tell us the story of Graciela Iturbide; furthermore, they also bring to us the importance of looking at people, objects, places with different eyes. Always.

This is not a common biography or a common graphic novel; this is an attempt to bring together the magic of Iturbide's life and work to the page in brief fragments and vivid glimpses. The narration takes us in and out and carries us deeply.

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### **Kris says**

I adored this short graphic biography about the life of Mexican photographer Graciela Iturbide. The Getty Museum has done an outstanding job of pulling together an award winning writer and graphic artist to bring this story to print. The book includes 25 of Iturbide's mythical photographs including "Our Lady of the Iguanas," "Magnolia Juchitan," and "Angel Woman." Treat yourself to this gorgeous foray into the life and art of an amazing Mexican artist.

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### **Jennifer Bacall says**

One of the best graphic novels of 2018, the gorgeous exposition on Photographer Graciela Iturbide is not simply an autobiography about her, it dives into the how and why of her life, artistic and philosophical choices.

Author Isabel Quintero uses very few words to tell the story but they are carefully chosen and artfully constructed.

"I photograph and exist in the in-between: those spaces where unknown worlds, real and imagined, intersect."

"I choose photography over tradition."

"Cholos in Tijuana yearning for an imaginary country, one that accepts everyone, somewhere they can find themselves."

"In Juchitan, womanhood is not weakness; it is unapologetic."

"Do we force our vision to find likeness, Reader, because we fear difference? Or is there beauty in the difference- and in learning how we live and breathe and thrive amid all the differences?"

"American roadways carry their own mythology and romance. Not bold and passionate like the mythology of the women in Juchitan. More like a quiet dissection of the metaphysical."

"I've always understood that photographs are taken, not made."

"I see a connection between my own question and Frida's assertion that imagination is the ever-present pair of wings needed to claim freedom."

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### **Romie says**

I found it interesting to see how this woman, Graciela Iturbide, saw the world as a writer, a photographer, an artist. How she understood it through her lens.

What I loved the most was how she travelled all around the word and tried to capture things that weren't

usual, things that people didn't care to look at, didn't care to see. That was beautiful. What was also beautiful was the way this depicted womanhood: people who identify as women, different women, beautiful women no matter what. There was power in her photographies, something you can't quite catch but a real atmosphere.

3.75

*Thank you Netgalley for providing me an e-arc in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Rogene Carter says**

Absolutely gorgeous and absolutely unforgettable.

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### **Danielle says**

"Graciela gave up a life of comfort and convention—choosing instead the path of the artist and risking everything."

"This is how I find my selves. But choosing who I will be."

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### **Kelly says**

Not being familiar with Iturbide's work -- something I plan on doing after reading this -- I only wish there'd been more of her photographs included along with the art. An interesting look at the life of an upperclass Mexican photographer who chose to pursue her passion, even though it wasn't seen as appropriate for someone of her status.

Quintero's narrative and Pena's art work well together. Iturbide said she doesn't like her work being called magical, but rather a shifting narrative and road of exploration, and this book certainly came together offering that feel.

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### **Molly says**

The art of this graphic novel is beautiful, but it barely compares to the photographs taken by Graciela Iturbide. I was astonished that I'd never heard of this amazing photographer and incredibly glad that the authors of this volume provided a list of references for exploring her work. The photos are gorgeous, even when the subject matter is a bit rough. (I was not, for example, prepared for a beautifully composed but still disturbing shot of someone holding a slaughtered goat.) I can't recommend this book strongly enough as an introduction to Iturbide's life and photographs.

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## **Jenny Lee says**

I received a digital copy to read and review from NetGalley

Clearly based on the cover, this book is full of gorgeous art.

However, this book is in black and white, because that is what photographer Graciela Iturbide believes reality is - black and white.

This is around 90 or so pages of a very brief history of the rise and work of Graciela Iturbide. The pages are a mix of simplistic comics composed of interviews done with Graciela, as well as a few of her actual photographs.

There is additional information about her life as well as references to additional reading material provided after the comic portion is completed.

I love this concept. I love the ability to learn about someone new to me in a graphic novel form, and I love that her work was incorporated into this book. This was really well done and I hope to see way more books published like this. I'm definitely feeling inclined to learn some more about Graciela Iturbide, and view more of her photographs.

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## **Michelle Quinn says**

*"I choose photography over tradition."*

Photographic is a graphic novel following the life of Mexican photographer Graciela Iturbide, someone that I, unfortunately, didn't know about until reading this. Actually, that is precisely why I picked this up. A successful, female, Mexican photographer? Of course I had to check it out!

Before saying anything else, I need to mention that I am Mexican. Born and raised. Reading about Graciela Iturbide and what she has been doing way before I was alive, was just mind-blowing. Knowing that she was able to follow her dreams in a time and place where her only job was to have children has left me speechless.

Following her journey has taught me so much I didn't know about my own country, my own culture. So much that we don't talk about. This simple, yet beautifully drawn novel momentarily talks about the **resilience** of Mexican families and culture in the United States; the **strength** and **power** of women in parts of Mexico that are less patriarchal; and the **strength, inclusion, and celebration of muxes** in Juchitan.

*"In Juchitan, womanhood is not weakness; it is unapologetic."*

This graphic novel not only includes these amazing revelations and gorgeous illustrations but it also includes stunning photographs taken by our very own Graciela Iturbide. Someone who not only has taught me so

much about my country but also has made me feel free. Someone who has made me appreciate photographs much more.

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### **Lauren says**

An exemplary biography of Graceila Iturbide, a Mexican photographer and artist. Her work spans decades and themes, and this book traces her background, her training, and her inspirations. Some of her best known work is of the intersection between humans and nature, in her native Mexico. She has photographed a series of the indigenous Seris people of the Sonoran desert, as well as portraiture in Oaxaca, and natural landscapes.

The bio includes many of her photographs, and graphic illustrations of the photograph pointing out different elements and what inspired the artwork.

If you are interested in art and photography, I highly recommend this. After reading this book, I really enjoyed seeing more of her work online, and stumbled across this great interview with Iturbide that shows many of her pieces: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oZxDrw61eI>.

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### **David Schaafsma says**

“We are all fragments of one another, strewn across.... borders. Different lines in the same poem.”

“Photography reveals flocks of birds with unclipped wings moving inside me. . . . I am a woman and then a bird.”

“Bird is dream is camera is self is life.”

I am glad to recall through this graphic biography Graciela Iturbide, the great Mexican photographer, maybe the second most famous woman Mexican artist. However, I had only seen scattered images of her work. Here's a famous one, Our Lady of Iguanas:

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/1277/>

“in which I blur the line between the present and the mythical and the immortal.”

I am inclined to say her work is magical, but she hates that word for her work, preferring to think of it at its best as poetic. Thus, the biography by Quintero and Pena strives for a poetic rendition of her life. I am not quite satisfied with the execution, but I admire the attempt and I do like several things it does.

As with The Photographer,

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1000000000000000000>

it mixes cartoon images with actual photographs in its biography and while I like collage, pastiche or mixed media approaches, in neither of these books did I really like the juxtaposition of photographs to comics. It

always made me want to stop reading the graphic tale and go straight to the photographs. I also wasn't always sure in the blending of words whose words were whose.

Still, having said that, I liked getting to know more background about Iturbide, and immediately ordered a couple collections of her photographs from the library and probably will buy one. Exciting stuff, and the biography is sufficiently disjointed to be true to her career and approach. It is short, though, and feels like a YA intro to the author in some ways. I wish I got to know her more deeply. It focuses a little too much on her travel and less on who she really is. It feels a little too surface/rushed in its presentation of the range of her life. I might say something in the range of 3.75. Still, I'm intrigued, and glad to invite others in with me on a new obsession.

International Center for Photography photographs by Iturbide:

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/co...>

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### [Shai] Bibliophage says

**Photographic** is a splendid graphic novel that narrates the life story of one of the brilliant and prominent photographers in Mexico. Through this, readers will finally get to know who **Graciela Iturbide** is behind her famous works.

I was able to read about her and see some of her photographs in a National Geographic magazine when I was still young. When I saw the photo of her "**Our Lady of the Iguanas**" in this graphic novel, that's when it hit me that I have seen it before. The photos that Iturbide captures really stands out and will make people become curious about what's the story behind the subject(s).

A great photo book/graphic novel will enthrall readers on who is **Graciela Iturbide** and that showcase some of her well-known works.

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