35 PHOTOGRAPHS BY EDWARD WESTON

Opens April 25, 1972

This portrait of Senator Manuel Hernández Galván is from the series Edward Weston called "heroic heads," made in Mexico. On February 3, 1924, Weston and a group including the senator took a trip to El Desierto de los Leones. Entries from Weston's Daybooks tell the rest of the story: "I wanted to catch Galván's expression while shooting. We stopped by an old wall, the trigger to his Colt fell, and I released my shutter. Thirty paces away a peso dropped to the ground - 'Un recuerdo - a keepsake,' said Galván, handing it to Tina."

Later Weston quotes the painter Rivera: "Diego, referring to my head of Galván, said 'Es un retrato - portrait - de México.'"

At the end of July 1926, Weston commented on Galván's assassination: "He had no chance, - fell dead across the table, shooting as he fell, but shooting with eyes already dead."


A selection of the work of the American photographer Edward Weston will be presented in the Prints and Drawings Galleries. Though few in number, the Metropolitan's Weston photographs span twenty-three of his most productive years. The earliest one included is a portrait (platinum print) made in 1921; next are those from the Mexican period, 1923-1926. In the late twenties and early thirties, Weston created the Point Lobos group, the plant and rock forms, and the nudes at Oceano. His great Western landscapes date from the late 1930s, while several others were produced on Weston's trip to the East Coast and the South in 1941. The latest photographs in the exhibition were made in Carmel in the middle 1940s. Although most of them were made over thirty years ago, these images of people, natural forms, and the American landscape are timeless and still powerful.

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