



Martha Graham - Primitive Mysteries

Date

1935, printed early 1980s

Primary Maker

Barbara Morgan

Medium

Gelatin silver print

Description

Depicts Primitive Mysteries, a modern ballet choreographed by Martha Graham with music by Louis Horst. The dance premiered in 1931 in New York City, echoing Spanish Catholic rituals blended with Native American customs in the Southwest United

States. Martha Graham felt inspired to create the work after a trip to New Mexico. She performed the lead role of the Virgin (central figure in white) herself. The dance consists of three sections: "Hymn to the Virgin", "Crucifixus", and "Hosannah".

Dimensions

Image: 13 3/8 x 17 1/2 in. (34 x 44.5 cm) Sheet: 16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)