



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)