

Advance Praise for CELEBRATING WOMEN

Celebrating Women captures the collective essence of the joys, exuberance and power of women. It is a vibrant book shouting to the world: We are strong! We are magnificent! We will be heard! I know of no one in the world with more integrity than Paola Gianturco. Everything she does reflects her deep empathy for women. Ms. Gianturco's intelligence, intuition, drive and vision, combined with her adaptability and ease in communication, have given her unparalleled insights into the identity of international womanhood. She writes clearly with passion and knowledge, while her photographs are compelling invitations to personal experiences with her subjects. A journey through *Celebrating Women* is at once transformative and deeply affirmative. It is a book that glows from within.

—**Stephen P. Huyler, cultural anthropologist, author and photographer of *Painted Prayers: Women's Art in Village India and India's Daughters: Women's Art and Identity***

Paola Gianturco's exceptional photography and intimate interviews reveal the forces that shape femininity in human cultures. *Celebrating Women* will become the definitive resource for festivals that honor women around the world. As a living institution dedicated to valuing the lives of women, the International Museum of Women is proud to present a multimedia exhibit based on Paola's photography, recordings and festival artifacts. Both the book and exhibit will raise intriguing questions about the nature of being female and create a new appreciation for women's roles and experiences.

—**Elizabeth Colton, Chair, International Museum of Women**

Once again, with her words and her lens, Paola Gianturco takes us on a magical journey around the world to participate in festivals and rituals, celebrating the spirit of women in cultures as diverse as Peru and Atlantic City. Although radically different in form and intention, they all converge in tapping the greatness of the feminine spirit, the paradigm for the entire culture. From Thao Suranari in Thailand to Miss America competition, *Celebrating Women* breaks down our preconceptions of femininity.

—**Alev Lytle Croutier, author of *Seven Houses***

Ending violence against women in all forms—celebrating women in all their diversity. These aims unite feminists across the world. Paola Gianturco's book, *Celebrating Women*, is a beautiful testimony of the vitality of women in the 21st century.

—**Anne Balsamo, Associate Director of Stanford Humanities Lab, feminist new media designer, and author of *Technologies of the Gendered Body: Reading Cyborg Women***