

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

powerHouse Books is pleased to announce the October 2004 release of

Celebrating Women

Photographs and Text by Paola Gianturco

Twenty-five thousand Swazi virgins dance for the Queen Mother. People who have had near-death experiences in Spain ride in open coffins and thank Santa Marta for their lives. Half-a-million Bolivians pray to Mother Earth and the Virgin Mary for cell phones, sewing machines, televisions, and Tudor houses. Polish girls float wreaths of wildflowers on the river. Berber divorcées invite Moroccan shepherds to marry them. In Thailand, an entire city honors the women who saved their ancestors from invaders. Couples from across the world race over obstacles in Finland's World Wife Carrying Championships. In China, seafaring families ride in boats as a tribute to the Goddess of the Fishermen. And in the United States, women represent each of the fifty states in a competition for the famed title "Miss America."

In *Celebrating Women*, photographer **Paola Gianturco** trains her eye on the world's most vibrant festivals that honor women. These moving celebrations, idiosyncratic to their indigenous roots, take the form of parades, parties, competitions, and religious ceremonies. Gianturco spent five years photographing seventeen festivals in fifteen countries across five continents. Collected for the first time ever in a single edition, Gianturco provides insightful text describing the specific occasions and detailing their historic and cultural significance, culled from her extensive interviews with musicians, dancers, vendors, mask makers, costume designers, journalists, priests, governors, and spectators—not to mention a princess and a king.

~ **EXHIBITION based on *Celebrating Women*** ~

Opens October 4, 2004

International Museum of Women

One Market, Concourse Lobby, San Francisco

For more information, please contact

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Exhibition continues through December 17, 2004

Paola Gianturco is the coauthor and photographer of *In Her Hands: Craftswomen Changing the World* (paperback edition, powerHouse Books, 2004). Her work has been exhibited at the United States Senate, the United Nations, New York, and The Field Museum, Chicago. Gianturco has served on the boards of International Nature & Cultural Adventures, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, and the Crafts Center, which works with women artisans in seventy-nine countries. She has co-taught Executive Institutes about Women and Leadership at Stanford University. Gianturco lives in Mill Valley, California.

WOMEN'S STUDIES/WORLD CULTURES

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