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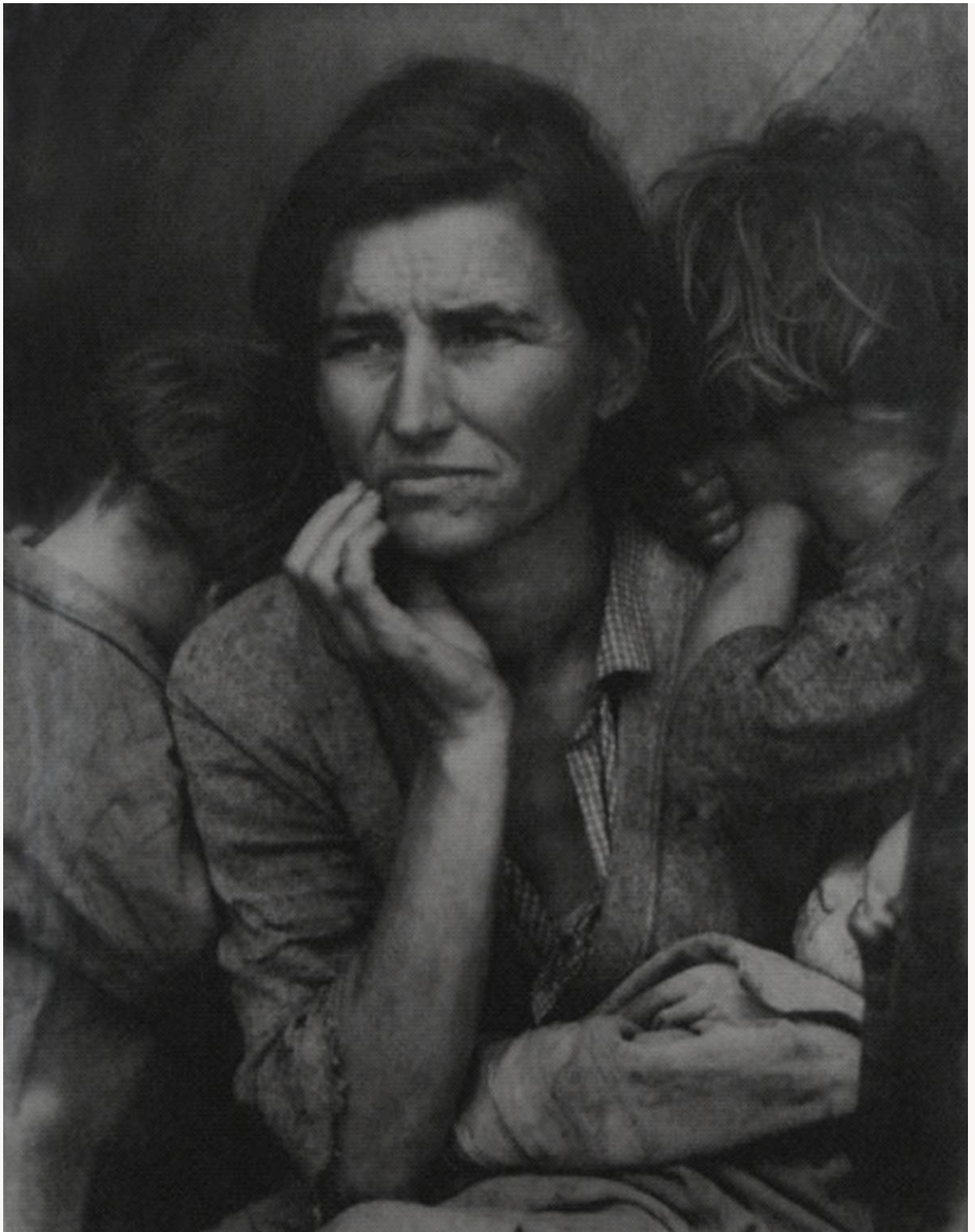
[Art & artists](#) → [Dorothea Lange](#) → [Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California](#)

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Dorothea Lange

Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California

1936, printed c.1950



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NOT ON DISPLAY

ARTIST	<a href="#">Dorothea Lange</a> 1895–1965
MEDIUM	Photograph, gelatin silver print on paper
DIMENSIONS	Unconfirmed: 355 x 280 mm
COLLECTION	Tate
ACQUISITION	Accepted by HM Government in lieu of inheritance tax from the Estate of Barbara Lloyd and allocated to Tate 2009
REFERENCE	P13115

## SUMMARY

*Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California* is a black and white photograph showing a woman holding a baby, with two older children standing on either side of her, leaning against her shoulders and facing away from the camera. The figures are shown close-to, with their heads and the upper parts of their bodies visible down to roughly their waists. Most of the setting is cropped out of the photograph, although a sheet of coarse material can be seen directly behind the sitters. The woman has dark hair that is swept back behind her head and wears a worn-looking cardigan over a checked shirt. Her right hand is raised to her chin and this, along with her furrowed brow and her eyes that gaze into the distance, gives her a reflective or concerned appearance. The two older children also have shabby clothes and unkempt-looking hair, and the baby has a slightly dirty face and is wrapped in a piece of cloth. At the right of the composition is what looks like a thick wooden stick, which is out of focus due to its close proximity to the camera, and on inspection a partly transparent thumb can be seen curled around the lower part of the stick.

This picture was taken by the American social documentary photographer Dorothea Lange near Nipomo, California, in February or March 1936. It is a silver gelatin print on paper and the scene was captured by Lange using a 4x5 Graflex RB Series D camera. Lange took the picture at the end of a month-long trip during which she had been photographing farm labourers in Southern California

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## EXPLORE

**history** (5,752)

politics and society (2,316)

economics: Great Depression, 1929-34 (8)

**people** (35,276)

actions: postures and motions (9,053)

head in hand/hands (268)

children (3,458)

baby (536)

child (1,348)

adults (22,960)

woman (9,099)

**places** (41,821)

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countries and continents (17,343)

USA, California (128)

**society** (34,917)

health and welfare (640)

poverty (98)

nationality (18,190)

American (688)

family (4,123)

mother and child (400)

**emotions, concepts and ideas** (15,768)

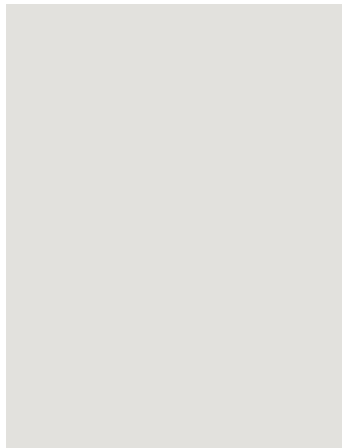
formal qualities (11,827)

photographic (4,243)

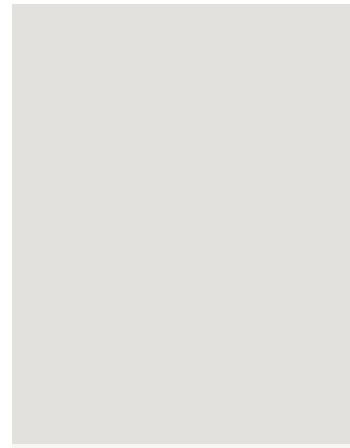
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August Sander  
*Working-class  
Mother*  
1927, printed 1990



August Sander  
*The Foster  
Mother*  
c.1930, printed  
1990



August Sander  
*Mother and  
Daughter [Helene  
Abelen with  
Daughter  
Josepha]*  
c.1926, printed  
1990

