ZACH WESTON

Nude and Succulent, 2013 Black and White Film Photography, 16 x 20 in



MANDY KAHN

For Edward Weston

You knew you were lucky to have her: young, not afraid to strip down straight to flesh and hair and curve into parentheses, to wishbones, in the dunes. She didn't fear a week of finding sand stuck in a knuckle's fold. She didn't fear your sons, nearly her age-mates, she didn't fear the former wife you hadn't quite divorced. Black, flat anemones in her armpits curved to the light. Every day you spent with her was finished, you wondered whether it mattered, making anything else. Pelted then by sand, your own desire in waves, the sun in desolate towns, you wondered how many ways a man could possibly come to love her, or know her, or see her, or keep her.

Mandy Kahn is author of the poetry collection Math, Heaven, Time, and is coauthor (with Aaron Rose) of the nonfiction book Collage Culture: Examining the 21st Century's Identity Crisis. She lives in Los Angeles.