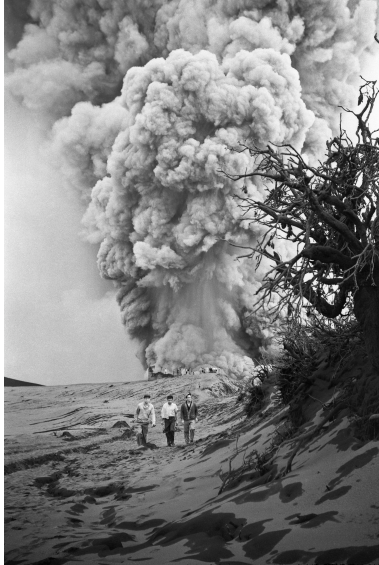


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On the cover



THE DUST MACHINE

Between 1963 and 1965, Irazú Volcano produced one of the most significant eruptions in Costa Rica's recorded history, ejecting vast quantities of ash across much of the country. Photographer Francisco Coto (d. 2024) documented the eruption from remarkably close range, capturing both the scale of the volcanic activity and the public fascination it inspired. This image embodies the distinctive composition and timing for which Coto was known, and features visitors walking away from the crater as an ash plume towers behind them. In this issue, Guillermo Alvarado and co-authors show how Irazú acted as a volcanic "dust machine," with repeated tephra fallback and recycling in its steep, funnel-shaped crater producing huge volumes of ash. Read more on [page 289](#).

Image credit: Francisco Coto, courtesy of the Fundación Francisco Coto. Cover design ©Volcanica [2026].

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