

# MARY ELLEN MARK

[www.photexpeditions.com](http://www.photexpeditions.com)

“I Just think it’s important to be direct and honest with people about why you are photographing them and what you are doing. After all, you are taking some of their soul”



## 10 Suggestions on how to become a better photographer

By Documentary Photographer Mary Ellen Mark

MARY ELLEN MARK has achieved worldwide visibility through her numerous books, exhibitions and editorial magazine work. She has published photo-essays and portraits in such publications as LIFE, New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, and Vanity Fair. For over four decades, she has traveled extensively to make pictures that reflect a high degree of humanism. Today, she is recognized as one of our most respected and influential photographers. Her images of our world's diverse cultures have become landmarks in the field of documentary photography. Her portrayals of Mother Teresa, Indian circuses, and brothels in Bombay were the product of many years of work in India. A photo essay on runaway children in Seattle became the basis of the academy award nominated film STREETWISE, directed and photographed by her husband, Martin Bell. Mary Ellen recently received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement in Photography Award from the George Eastman House as well as the Outstanding Contribution Photography Award from the World Photography Organisation. She has also received the Infinity Award for Journalism, an Erna & Victor Hasselblad Foundation Grant, and a Walter Annenberg Grant for her book and exhibition project on AMERICA. For more information on Mary Ellen Mark, visit [www.maryellenmark.com](http://www.maryellenmark.com)

Mary Ellen Mark will be co-leading our **2015 Day of the Dead Photo Workshop** in Oaxaca alongside with National Geographic Photographer **Tino**

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## Suggestions by Mary Ellen Mark:

1. Look at books by great photographers—in all of the genres (street photography, portraiture, landscape, etc.) For example: Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank, W. Eugene Smith, Irving Penn, Eugene Atget.
2. Be inspired by great work, but **DO NOT COPY** it.
3. Try to analyze what makes a photograph great. ie: content, design, etc.
4. Learn to edit your work. This is crucial and not so easy. You need to be able to understand which images work and why they work.
5. A great photographer has his own style, his own point of view, his own way of seeing the world.
6. Learn techniques. Learn how you can use light. Even if you have an automatic camera, learn how to use a light meter. It will help you understand the values of light.
7. Discipline yourself. Make yourself shoot often—portraiture, street photography, landscape. You should try to do this at least two days a week. A camera is like an instrument—you must practice constantly. This will also help you develop your eye.
8. Organize your negatives, digital files, contact sheets starting **NOW**.
9. Be curious about your surroundings and the world—it's a good way to find your next project.
10. Never think that you've "made it." You're only as good as your next project.

"Mary Ellen has published eighteen books including Passport (Lustrum Press, 1974), Ward 81 (Simon & Schuster, 1979), Falkland Road (Knopf, 1981), Mother Teresa's Mission of Charity in Calcutta (Friends of Photography, 1985) - See more at: [http://www.maryellenmark.com/bio\\_resume/bio\\_resume.html#sthash.Uljou5dl.dpu](http://www.maryellenmark.com/bio_resume/bio_resume.html#sthash.Uljou5dl.dpu)"

## About Photo Xpeditions

Photo Xpeditions produces photographic journeys led by award winning photographers around the globe. Photographers like Mary Ellen Mark, Tino Soriano, Kenneth Garrett and others are some of the great photographers that have led our trips and enriched our students' photographic skills through the past few years.

Photo Xpeditions is a partner of National Geographic Expeditions, and has also produced several journeys and photo workshops in partnership with The Santa Fe Workshops in the past. Some of our featured trips for 2015 include a joint Day of the Dead Photo Workshop co-led by award winning photographers Mary Ellen Mark and Tino Soriano, National Geographic Expeditions' Spain Northern Coast by Private Rail and Mary Ellen Mark's Photographic Workshops in New York and Iceland.

For more information about our journeys visit [www.photoxpeditions.com](http://www.photoxpeditions.com) or contact us by calling us at 1-888-741-3974.

## 2015 Photo Workshops From Photo Xpeditions

### **Led by Tino Soriano:**

Special participation on National Geographic Expeditions' Spain's Northern Coast by Private Rail  
Day of the Dead in Oaxaca, Mexico in Partnership with Mary Ellen Mark

Aug 15-25 & Sep 20-30

Oct 25-Nov 04

### **Led by Mary Ellen Mark**

Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop Series: Oaxaca  
Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop Series: New York  
Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop Series: Iceland  
Day of the Dead in Oaxaca, Mexico in Partnership with Tino Soriano

Feb 15-25

Jun 21 - Jul 21

Aug 09-20

Oct 25-Nov 04

### **Led by Martin Bell**

Transitioning from Photography to Filmmaking Workshop in Iceland

Aug 09-20

### **Led By Magdalena Solé**

The Delta: A Social Documentary Master Class  
Japan History and Traditions Photo Xpedition

June 23-30

Oct 20-Nov 2

### **Led by Geoffrey Hiller**

Hidden Myanmar

Nov 8-19