

MARY ELLEN MARK

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



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

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"

About Photo Xpeditions

We specialize in crafting unique travel experiences and memorable photography and film-making workshops in partnership with some of the most renowned artists of our time. We take pride in the care we put into building extraordinary programs and creating amazing learning opportunities for all our travelers.

We work in some of the most interesting destinations on the planet. Depending on the type of experience we aspire for offer our clients, we may travel to Mexico, Peru, Iceland or beyond. Our participants are invited to join us at the most auspicious times of the year for travel and photography, when the celebrations are most fervent, while culture is alive and on display, we will be there as the action unfolds.

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 National Geographic Expeditions' Spain Northern Coast by Private Rail, Mary Ellen Mark's Photographic Workshops in New York and Iceland, Geoffrey Hiller's Hidden Myanmar workshop, and much more. For more information about our journeys visit www.photoxpeditions.com or contact us by calling us at **1-888-741-3974**.

Upcoming Photo Xpeditions for 2015

Led by Tino Soriano:

Day of the Dead in Oaxaca, Mexico

Oct 25-Nov 04, 2015

Led by Mary Ellen Mark

Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop in Oaxaca
Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop Series: New York
Mary Ellen Mark Photo Workshop in Iceland
Mary Ellen Mark Workshop Series" Day of the Dead

Feb 15-25, 2015
Jun 21-Jul 1, 2015
Aug 02-13, 2015
Oct 25-Nov 04, 2015

Martin Bell

Transitioning to Film-Making Workshop in Iceland

Aug 02-13, 2015

Magdalena Solé

The Delta: A Social Documentary Master Class

June 23-30, 2015

Geoffrey Hiller

Hidden Myanmar

Nov 8-19, 2015



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