

From March 18 to July 31, 2021

Foto Colectania will show the iconic work of photographer Mary Ellen Mark

. Mary Ellen Mark is one of the great documentary photographers who managed to capture with her camera the harsh existence of girls and women around the world.

. The exhibition has been organized thanks to the main collaboration of the Banco Sabadell Foundation



© Mary Ellen Mark. *Amanda and her cousin Amy*, Valdese, North Carolina, United States, 1990

Foto Colectania Foundation, thanks to the main collaboration of the Banco Sabadell Foundation, will present on **March 18** the exhibition ***Mary Ellen Mark: Lives of Women***, curated by Anne Morin.

From the moment she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication in 1964 with a degree in photojournalism until her recent death just over fifty years later, Mary Ellen Mark worked as a documentary photographer making intensely vivid, groundbreaking photo essays exploring the realities of people in

a variety of complex, often difficult situations. A large majority of these people were women.

Mark's work predates today's focus on the abuse and suffering of women highlighted by the #MeToo movement and others, with numerous projects extensively exploring the lives of women in difficult, painful, at times nearly impossible situations. A passionate witness, her life's work was to use photography and film to delve deeply into the lives of others as a way of embracing their humanity and sharing it with a larger audience, providing her subjects with a significant, often powerful voice.

In the 1970s Mark made a series of intimate black-and-white photographs of female patients in distress on *Ward 81*, the only locked ward for women in the Oregon State Hospital, publishing a book of the same name. In 1981 she published another volume, *Falkland Road: Prostitutes of Bombay*, a pioneering work in color on the lives of sex workers in Mumbai's low-rent red light district. A few years later her work on Mother Teresa's Mission of Charity in Calcutta came out as a book, illuminating the strength and commitment of this icon of generosity.



© Mary Ellen Mark. *Tiny in her Halloween costume*
Seattle, Washington, 1983

Her work on Erin Blackwell, aka "Tiny," a young runaway girl whom she met in 1983, and on Tiny's community of friends living on the street, became the subject of an Academy Award-nominated film, *Streetwise*, as well as a second film, *Tiny*, and two books, tracing over three decades this young woman's battle with poverty and drug addiction, as well as her role as mother to ten of her own children.

Mark also photographed teenagers at their high school graduation proms, which also became a book and a film, *Prom*. For another project she photographed twins in

Twinsburg Ohio, producing a book and film, *Twins*. Then she made photographs and another film on the members of a circus in India, *Circus of Dreams*. She also made an iconic and haunting image of a young Turkish girl who survived a massive earthquake in her country, as well as photographing a homeless family living in a car in California for *Life* magazine, raising enormous amounts of money from readers. And she made portraits of many very successful women, celebrities in their own right, among them Maya Angelou, Candice Bergen, Lillian Gish, Etta James, and Twinka.

Her work was published in prestigious international media such as *Life*, *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *New Yorker* and *Rolling Stone* and in her 18 books.

Finally, the exhibition in Barcelona will present some of the films that Mary Ellen Mark developed with her husband, the filmmaker Martin Bell. *Twins*, shot by Bell in 2002 can be seen at Foto Colectania. In April the Filmoteca de Catalunya will present the films *Streetwise* (1983), that tell the stories of those society had left behind: homeless and runaway teenagers living on the city's margins. And *Tiny: The Life of Erin Blackwell* (2015), in which director Martin Bell and photographer Mary Ellen Mark, followed for more than three decades Erin Blackwell, also known as Tiny.



Mary Ellen Mark with her Leica in Central Park, Nueva York, ca. 1970.
Unknown photographer

PRESS IMAGES

Press images available in: <https://bit.ly/3rjmmP1>



MARY ELLEN MARK
Amanda and her cousin Amy.
Valdese, North Carolina, USA, 1990
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Tiny in her Halloween costume.
Seattle, Washington, USA, 1983
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
The Damm Family in their car.
Los Angeles, California, USA, 1987
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Child circus acrobat in her trailer.
Oaxaca, Mexico, 2008
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Vera Antinoro, Rhoda Camporato, and Murray Goldman, Luigi's Italian American Club.
Miami, Florida, USA, 1993
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Hippopotamus and Performer, Great Rayman Circus.
Madras, India 1989
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Girl Jumping over a Wall.
Central Park, Manhattan, New York, USA, 1967
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Gypsy Camp.
Barcelona, Spain, 1987
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Husband and Wife.
Harlan County, Kentucky, USA, 1971
© Mary Ellen Mark



MARY ELLEN MARK
Laurie in the bathtub, Ward 81, Oregon State Hospital.
Salem, Oregon, USA, 1976
© Mary Ellen Mark

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Mary Ellen Mark: Lives of Women

From March 18 to July 31, 2021

Fundació Foto Colectania

Passeig Picasso 14

08003 Barcelona

www.fotocolectania.org

Opening hours:

Wednesday to Friday from 4pm to 8pm

Saturday from 11am to 3pm and from 4pm to 8pm

Sunday from 11am to 3pm

Bank Holidays closed

General admission: € 4

Reduced ticket: € 3

Free entry: 1st Sunday of the month

Exhibition produced by:

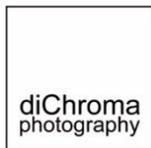


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MAHALA

Comunicación
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Foto Colectania Foundation

Foto Colectania is a non-profit organization, created in Barcelona in 2002, with the aim of disseminating photography and making it known in the social, artistic and educational field of our country. The programs that are carried out, from exhibitions to activities and publications, are based on the creation of an innovative and participatory project whose main axis is thought around the image.

Based on Paseo Picasso 14, in the Born district, Foto Colectania has established itself as a reference center in the field of photography that houses a photographic collection of more than 3,000 works by 80 Spanish and Portuguese authors, in addition to the archive by photographer Francisco Gómez and other collections from various private collectors. Apart from the exhibition space, the new headquarters has a conservation chamber to house his photography collection, a library and an audiovisual room.

www.fotocolectania.org