**Mary Ellen Mark**

(1940, United States)

After a degree in history of Art at the University of Pennsylvania in 1962, Mary Ellen Mark attended a two years couse of jounalism at the Annenberg School of Communications. Thanks to a grand she could travel in Turkey, Greece, Spain, Italy, Germany and Britain for two years. In 1966 she set up in New York where she opened a own studio. Her firsts assignments were offered by the cinema; she became scene photographer and portraitist. She worked on different sets such as *Satyricon* with Federico Felini. Thanks to the meeting between Mary Ellen Mark and Milos Forman and the cooperation on the film set *Qualcuno volò sul nido del cuculo* she realised *Ward 81*, a dramatic discover in the feminine section of an American mental hospital. She continued her reseraches: *Falkland Road* (1981), *Mother Teresa’s Mission of Charity in Calcutta* (1985), *Streetwise* (1988), the antological book *Mary Ellen Mark: 25 Years* (1991), *Indian Circus*(1993), *American Odissey* (1999) e Mary Ellen Mark 55 (2001), Twins(2003), *Mary Ellen Mark: Exposure* (2005), *Extraordinary Child* (2007), *Seen Behind the Scene* (2008). She has received a great number of awards such as the *Robert Kennedy Award* for two times, the *Leica Medal of Exellence*, the *Canon Photo Essayist Award*, the *World Press Photo Award*, the *Infinity Award for journalism*, the *Victor Hasselblad Cover Award*, the *Creative Arts Award*, the *Cornell Capa Award*, allocated by ICP (International Center of Photography), *l’Erna&Victor Hasselblad Foundation Grant*, e il *Walter Annenberg Grant.*

Her photography has addressed such social issues as homelessness, loneliness, drug addiction and prostitution. She works primarily in black and white.