

PRESS COVERAGE



Mary Ellen Mark: Twins and Falkland Road

July 23- October 5, 2004

1. Chicago Life, Fall, 2004
2. Chicago Tribune, 7. 18. 2004
3. Chicago Tribune, 7. 29. 2004
4. Chicago Tribune, 9. 3. 2004
5. FNews, Oct, 2004
6. RedEye, 8. 4. 2004
7. Skyline, 7. 22. 2004
8. UR Chicago, Aug, 2004

events

Museums

The **Art Institute of Chicago**, 111 S. Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600, presents *Pieced Together: Photomontage from the Collection* through Sept. 19. *Seurat and the Making of "La Grande Jatte"* also continues through Sept. 19. *Unbuilt Chicago*, which runs through Jan. 16, features local architectural projects that were never realized.

The **Terra Museum of American Art**, 664 N. Michigan, 312-664-3939, presents *A Narrative of American Art* through Oct. 31. The last collection exhibition before the museum closes, it traces a 200-year history of American art as represented by 80 works from the Terra Foundation for the Arts collection.

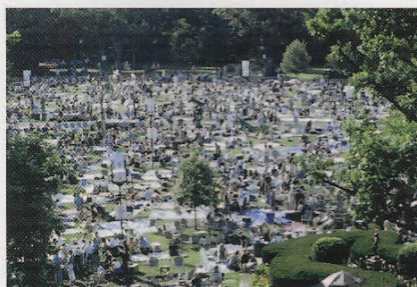
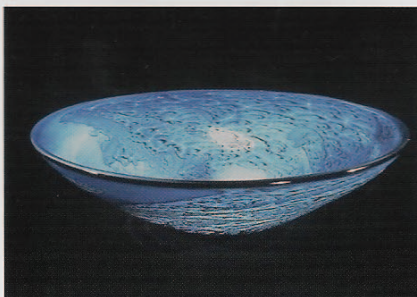
The **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)**, 220 E. Chicago Ave., 312-280-2660, presents a Dan Peterman exhibition through Sept. 5. Also at the museum through the same date is *The Everyday Altered*, which presents the work of six Mexican artists who transformed everyday objects and materials that are relevant to understanding contemporary art.

The **Field Museum**, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., 312-922-9410, hosts *Forbidden City* through Sept. 12. The exhibit reveals the hidden world of the Imperial Court and the Chinese Empire at the peak of its wealth and power. Coming on Oct. 15 and running through Feb. 13 is *Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas*. The lost city of Machu Picchu is one of the most spectacular archeological sites in the world.

The **Museum of Science and Industry**, 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr., 773-684-1414, hosts *Action! An Adventure in Moviemaking* through Jan. 9. Guests will encounter the best of Hollywood's top actors, writers, directors, sound technicians and masters of special effects to discover how these movie wizards make celluloid magic. And don't miss the latest Omnimax shows, *Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West* continues running through October, and *Forces of Nature* is playing through February.

The **Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum**, 1852 W. 19th St., 312-738-1503, presents the *Annual Sor Juana Festival*, an exhibition that showcases the rich talent and cultural contributions of Mexican women in theater, music, literature and dance. The festival runs from Sept. 24 through Nov. 12.

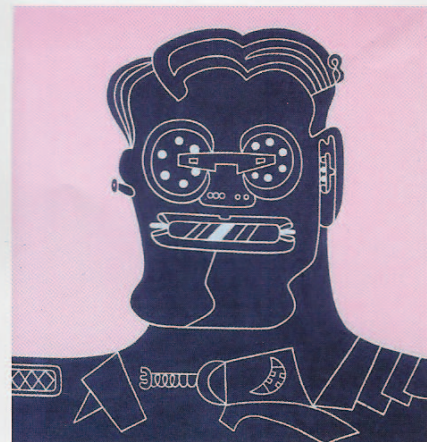
The **Chicago Historical Society**, Clark Street



at North Avenue, 312-642-4600, presents *Latin Jazz: La Combinación Perfecta*, the story of the evolution of Latin jazz in the United States, Aug. 28 through Nov. 28. The exhibition, curated by the Smithsonian Institution, offers a concise look at Latin jazz, its history, major personalities and icons. The exhibition features maps, audio-visual stations, vintage film footage, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, musical scores, programs and album covers. Also at the museum is *Documents of Freedom* through Nov. 7. The exhibition of rare manuscripts tells the story of

America's quest for freedom. *Teen Chicago* continues through January.

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle, Evanston, 847-491-4000, hosts *Persistence of Vision: The Evolution of the Moving Image*, an exhibition that explores the apparatus and artistry of pre-cinema and early cinema,



through Aug. 22. *Gene(sis): Contemporary Art Explores Human Genomics* begins Sept. 10 and runs through Nov. 28. From digitally-altered photographs

Top Left: Contemporary Glass by John Simpson, **American Craft Exposition**.

Middle Left: Jaguar stool, "Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas." Courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University. **The Field Museum**.

Bottom Left: **Ravinia**.

Top Right: Karl Wirsum, "Mr. Newer Bluer," **Jean Albano Gallery**.

Bottom Right: Mary Ellen Mark, "Mary Ellen Mark: Twins and Falkland Road," **Museum of Contemporary Photography**.

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DAILY NEWSPAPER

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 **Bacon's**

1576

ART

'DISRUPTING THE IMAGE'

Paintings and sculpture by Nick Black, Mark Ottens, David Reninger and John Santoro, Chicago natives and friends with a highly personal vocabulary; through Aug. 29; Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave.; free; 773-227-5522.

'FRED WILSON: OBJECTS AND INSTALLATIONS, 1979-2000'

The first retrospective for the internationally known artist/activist; opens Saturday; Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.; free; 312-744-6630.

'TWINS: MARY ELLEN MARK'

34 images from new and old projects by the veteran photographer; opens Friday; Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; free; 312-663-5554.

— Alan G. Artner

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART REVIEW

Mark's photos grant immortality to those who don't really have it

By Alan G. Artner
Tribune art critic

Mary Ellen Mark will be 65 next year, and though her exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Photography does not specifically observe that landmark, it does present selections from early and recent projects that testify to more than a quarter century of extraordinary documentary work.

Mark has said she always has been drawn to the disadvantaged, in part because photographs confer a kind of immortality, which she likes to grant people who normally would not have it.

The earliest of her projects on view, from the 1981 book "Falkland Road," is a great example of that, whereas the most recent, from the 2003 book "Twins," is more ecumenical, cutting across classes while communicating humor as well as affection.

"Falkland Road" was a portrait of a notorious street of prostitutes in Bombay. For more than a decade, Mark attempted to shoot there, only to be driven away by inhabitants. Finally, in 1978, she stayed for six weeks, earning the trust of street prostitutes, transvestites, madams and girls in the brothels. The result was a book

of 65 photographs that got as close to that heart-breaking world as anyone could have expected.

The exhibition presents 15 images, some accompanied by extended captions Mark provided. Because they are in color, they are at times as much "about" color as documentation and compassion. And it was not difficult to take brilliant color photographs in India, for as Raghuir Singh reminded viewers, the Indian people live in a world of high chromatic intensity.

The best of Mark's "Falkland Road" pictures seem to match the girls' inner and outer landscapes in ways that are multidimensional. An image of one prostitute writhing in apparent glee, for example, is perhaps a record of ecstasy, but owing to her face and the client's hand being framed by a vividly colored curtain for an infant's room, it also suggests, gently, a lost childhood. This is the sort of unsentimental combination the book is filled with.

The part of the show devoted to "Twins" presents 20 black-and-white Polaroid portraits taken in a temporary studio set up at the annual Twin Days Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio.

The poses and clothing were chosen by the subjects. Mark has shot them against a plain backdrop, moving her camera forward or back to crop people at the waist or show them full-



length in the otherwise empty space.

The sharpness of detail and large scale of the 20-by-24-inch Polaroids allows viewers to really scrutinize the images — inevitably — for differences rather than similarities. And some of the twins appear to go out of their way to assert them-



Mary Ellen Mark's images of "Twins" is on display at the Museum of Contemporary Photography.

selves in tiny ways both telling and amusing.

The subjects here are not exotic, though when we see a number of them, they begin to appear so. Still, Mark never makes fun of anyone. The achievement of the pictures comes from having simply, directly recorded the various subtle shades of security that twins develop in coming to terms with their circumstances. "Mary Ellen Mark" continues at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., through Oct. 5. 312-663-5554.



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SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

 **Bacon's**

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY: Mary Ellen Mark: Two exhibits by the photographer include 20 Polaroid

PLEASE SEE **GO**, PAGE 19

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roid prints from her "Twins" series, shot in Twinsburg, Ohio, during the annual Twins Days festival; and a selection of images from her 1978-79 series on prostitution in Bombay, India, "Falkland Road"; through Oct. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri., noon-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thu.; free. Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Ave. 312-663-5554.



Image courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Photography

Mary Ellen Mark's Twins and Falkland Road

By Robyn Coffey

Photographer and, perhaps, social activist, Mary Ellen Mark states that her two exhibitions on view at the Museum of Contemporary Photography aim to tell the stories of those whose stories might not otherwise be heard.

The first set of pictures are the result of several years of work at the annual Twin Days Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio. They are formally posed, black-and-white studio portraits of pair upon pair of identical twins, including beaming gap-toothed children, bearded bikers, and pretty twin wives posing with their handsome twin husbands, all dressed in matching outfits and often with rhyming or similar names. Many of these pairs appear in a short film by Mark's husband Martin Bloom, a humorous and touching ménage of twins' answers to questions about their differences and similarities, childhood fights, switching places, and that special psychic "twin power" bond.

In startling contrast to this good-natured gaiety, Mark's second photographic project consists of images from Bombay, India's Falkland Road, an infamous brothel hotspot. These photos are visually arresting, fraught with bright colors, capturing prostitutes, madams, and johns in "houses" along the road—tiny rooms only large enough for the mattress on the floor. Many of the teenage girls are surprisingly beautiful, with brown tattooed skin, nose piercings, and elaborate bindis on their foreheads. Mark carefully captures the variety of their expressions: some are laughing, some stare challengingly at the camera, and some gaze off into the distance.

Despite their aesthetic beauty, viewing Mark's photographs leave one with an uneasy sense of exploitation. Rather than set straight misconceptions of her marginalized subjects, she seems to capitalize on these stereotypes, from the feel-good kitsch of identical twins to the illicit thrill of Bombay whores.

Museum of Contemporary
Photography: 600 South Michigan
Avenue

1576 arts & culture

Be an exhibitionist!

Find everything from couture to crime scenes at these museum shows

By Rebecca K. Palmore

Skin Tight

Those who ponder the complexities surrounding fashion, gender and identity as they window shop along the Mag Mile (and who doesn't?) will love this exhibit at MCA. A roster of international, uber-hip designers have contributed garments, photographs, videos and installations that explore the relationship between fashion and art. Through Sept. 5. \$6-\$10. 220 E. Chicago Ave. 312-280-2660.

Mary Ellen Mark images

The documentary photographer's famous images of twins—shot at the annual Twins

Days festival in Twinsburg, Ohio—expose subtle variations between identical siblings. Also, see images from "Falkland Road," her series on prostitution in India. Through Oct. 5. Free. Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Ave. 312-663-5554.

Leopold and Loeb: The 'Perfect' Crime

This exhibit offers a chilling glimpse of the evidence used to convict college friends Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb after the kidnapping and murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks in 1924 Chicago. See an eerie typed ransom note signed "Yours truly" and Leopold's prescription glasses, which ultimately cinched the duo's guilt. Through Sep. 26. \$1-\$5. Chicago Historical Society, 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600.

Chicago Modern, 1893-1945: Pursuit of the New

Heads up: The museum is closing Oct. 31, so there's no better time to check out the collection. During this exhibition, you'll find nearly 90 paintings by Chicago artists. \$5 suggested donation. Terra Museum of American Art, 664 N. Michigan Ave. 312-664-3939.

Also closing soon:

Splendors of China's Forbidden City: The Glorious Reign of Emperor Qianlong Through Sept. 12. \$8-\$17. Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312-922-9410.

Seurat and the Making of 'La Grande Jatte' Through Sept. 19. \$12-\$15. Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600.



Fashion forward

See fashions and photographs from trendy designers including (left to right) Boudicca, Hussein Chalayan and Walter Van Beirendonck at the MCA.

Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years

Plan ahead: Tickets are quickly getting snatched up for this November exhibition, which will display clothing, photographs, notes and more from the former First Lady. Nov. 13-May 8, 2005. \$16-\$25. Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312-922-9410.

CSI: Crime Scene Insects

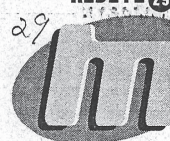
Inspired by the TV show "CSI," this exhibit

explores forensic entomology by recreating crime scenes and even displaying five pig cadavers in various stages of decomposition. Through Sept. 12. \$3-\$7. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive, 773-755-5100.

Rebecca K. Palmore is a metromix special contributor.

Find more museum exhibits on metromix.com

REDEYE 29



Mary Ellen Mark: Twins AND FALKLAND ROAD

July 23 – October 5, 2004

Opening Reception: July 22, 2004 5 - 7 pm



Mary Ellen Mark
*Heather and Kelsey Dietrick,
7 years old, Kelsey older by
66 minutes*
Twinsburg, Ohio, USA 2002

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

600 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Telephone 312.663.5554
mocp@colum.edu
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JULY 22, 2004

 **Bacon's****INTERESTING IMAGES.**

The Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, offers a variety of work from the world of modern photography.

Established in 1982, the museum's permanent collection contains over 6,500 works by 830 contemporary photographers. The works

of 14 artists, including Diane Arbus and Garry Winogrand, who explore concepts of duplication and repetition, feature in "Ditto: Multiples from the Collection," July 23 through Oct. 5

Also during that span, "Twins: Mary Ellen Mark," presents a new project by the photographer. Over the past 35 years, Mark has produced projects with a humanistic slant on drug culture, child prostitution, circuses, aging, rodeos, celebrities and mental-health facilities. Also on display are selected images from her 1978-79 series on prostitution in Bombay, India, "Falkland Road."

Admission is free. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays; and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Call (312) 663-5554 or see <http://www.mocp.org>.

SHORT AND SWEET

Who: Mary Ellen Mark

Place of residence: New York

Work on display: A solo show at the Museum of Contemporary Photography (600 S. Michigan, 312/344-7104) displaying works from her most recent book, *Twins*, and selections from the "Falkland Road" series (July 23-October 5).

Documenting any subculture can be tricky; how do you approach your subjects and gain their trust? When you approach your subjects, you just have to be honest with them. Once you gain their trust, they won't violate that.

You photograph your subjects, many of whom live unimaginable lifestyles, in a way that conveys their humanity. People fall into different lifestyles for many different reasons. For the women that are prostitutes in India, they have that lifestyle because it comes out of poverty and not having a choice. I think it's so sad that women have to be in a position to sell their bodies, from everywhere, not just from India. These women stand for all women that, to survive, have to sell their bodies.

Why did you choose to exhibit the "Twins" project alongside "Falkland Road"? It was the decision of Rod Slemmons, who runs the gallery, and he decided to put two bodies of work next to each other. I think it's a good choice because they're very different. They're two different approaches: One is portraiture, and the other is documentary; one is black and white, and the other is color, so it's an interesting idea.

How did you become interested in India? I went to India for the first time in the '60s and I really loved it, and that's when someone showed me Falkland Road, and I went there and I just thought it was amazing. I said that one day I'd go back, and then I went back again and again and again to work on different projects because it was fascinating.

Why did you want to photograph patrons of the Twins Day Festival? Well, I've always photographed twins from the time I started. And many photographers photograph twins because they're really fascinating. They are so interesting to look at; they look so much alike, and yet they look so different. That's why I used the big camera because it really emphasized their likeness and differences.

How has your aesthetic changed over the past three decades? I'm not sure my aesthetic has changed. I'm interested in the same things and perceptions that I was always interested in. Many of my changes are technical. I'm better than when I started out because I've photographed for so many years, so technically it's easier for me to achieve what I want to achieve.

Carrie Sandler

