Streetwise Revisited
Photographs by Mary Ellen Mark
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- Exhibition and publication build on Mary Ellen Mark’s signature project by including some of her most celebrated work as well as never-before-seen images up through 2014
- A deeply moving and personal story, spanning more than thirty years, of Tiny, who we see transform from a thirteen-year-old kid living on the streets of Seattle to a mother of ten
- A rare examination of intergenerational poverty

In 1983, Mary Ellen Mark first photographed her poignant document of a fiercely independent group of homeless and troubled youth who made their way on the streets of Seattle as pimps, prostitutes, panhandlers, and small-time drug dealers. Streetwise (the book was published in 1988; the landmark film by Mark’s husband, Martin Bell, premiered in 1985) received critical acclaim for its honest portrayal of life on the streets and introduced us to individuals who were not easily forgotten, including “Tiny” (Erin Charles)—a thirteen-year-old prostitute with dreams of a horse farm, diamonds and furs, and a baby of her own. Since meeting Tiny thirty years ago, Mark has continued to photograph her, creating what has become one of Mark’s most significant and long-term projects. Almost forty-five, Tiny has ten children, the youngest five of whom are by her husband, Will, and her life has unfolded in unexpected ways.

Aperture is pleased to release a significantly expanded iteration of this classic monograph and a new accompanying exhibition, presenting the iconic work of the first edition along with Mark’s moving and intimate body of work on Tiny, most of which is previously unpublished and unexhibited. Texts and captions are drawn from conversations between Tiny and Mary Ellen Mark as well as Martin Bell. Streetwise Revisited is a rare examination of intergenerational poverty, radiating out to issues of homelessness, education, healthcare, addiction, mental health, and child welfare, providing a powerful education about one of the more complex sides of American life, as well as insight into the unique relationship sustained between artist and subject for over thirty years.

Mary Ellen Mark’s (born in Philadelphia, 1940) honors and awards include a Fulbright Scholarship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Cornell Capa Award, and five honorary doctorates. Her work has been exhibited worldwide and has appeared in numerous publications, including Life, New York Times Magazine, and the New Yorker. She has produced sixteen books, including American Odyssey (Aperture, 1999), Twins (Aperture, 2003), Exposure (2005), Seen Behind the Scene (2009), and Prom (2012). She lives in New York with her husband Martin Bell.

Contents:
Includes sixty 11 x 14–inch prints and a video by Martin Bell. One or two blowups are possible, at the venue’s expense, if they add to the strength of the installation.

Approximate running feet: 150

Participation fee: $8,000 for an 8-week showing. The host venue is responsible for pro-rated shipping and insurance.

Availability: through 2019

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Publication:
Streetwise Revisited
Photographs by Mary Ellen Mark
Afterword by Mary Ellen Mark
Text by John Irving
10 x 12 in. (25.4 x 30.48 cm)
ca. 184 pages
ca. 160 duotone images ca. 4 color images
Hardcover with jacket
$65.00/£40.00 (TBC)
Fall 2015
Streetwise Revisited
Sample Works