

Chasing the Legends

"Most of them said no at first," recalls Tina Ruisinger, the 33-year-old behind *The Faces of Photography* (Edition Stemmler), in bookstores this month. The book assembles her black-and-white natural-light portraits of 50 of the past century's icons of photography, with accompanying collages and texts. Finally, Richard Avedon, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Andreas Feininger, Mary Ellen Mark, Arnold Newman, and Gordon Parks, among others, agreed to face the lens. Chasing down the elusive legends proved to be long-term labor of love. Ruisinger began in 1997 in New York by capturing her then-roommate Erika Stone. "Robert Frank took a year," she recounts. "I called and called. I went to his bar. I went to Zurich. I tried getting Gisele Freund for three years. In Paris I stood in front of her house for two days." Ruisinger adds that some of her subjects, including the late Inge Morath, "took pictures of me, too."

Kimberly Bradley, Art News 3/02, New York

"Photographer Tina Ruisinger has completed a major new project where she met with and photographed 50 of the most famous photographers alive today. *Faces of Photography* is partly a scrapbook of photographs and text, partly a "who's who" of contemporary photographers, and finally a collection of heartfelt portraits by a talented photographer. Featuring practitioners like Elliot Erwitt, Robert Frank, Mary Ellen Mark and Arnold Newman to name a few, Ruisinger managed to get access to a host of reluctant subjects and did a wonderful job of representing them in her direct, playful and respectful way. This book marks quite an achievement."

Picture Magazine 4/02, New York

All of the portraits in this handsome book were produced by Tina Ruisinger, a talented photographer with a subtle, sensitive approach. She has created a virtual history of photography, providing intimate images and interviews with 50 master photographers. These individuals – including Mary Ellen Mark, Duane Michals, and Arnold Newman - have provided us with some of the most compelling photography of the century, yet are themselves rarely in front of the lens. In this moving collection we are allowed access to their homes, but more importantly, their minds.

Photoeye's 4/02, New York

Original portraits of the old guard by the young

"There are a number of portraits in this elegant tome which made me stop and say, "this is really a perfect photographic portrait!" (E.g., the marc riboud portrait, and more). I am honored to be included within this roster of archetypes. I am impressed with Tina Ruisinger's avant-garde, dadaistic style of capture and layout and some of the text and interviews in this book can throw daggers and some can bring wisps of tears. Edition Stemmler should feel proud and happy to have published this artful document of the living and dead and the insight into their characters by this courageous young (facing the

lightning and thunder of the old gods) photographer. A wonderful gift for those who "know" about creativity and for those who'd like to learn."

Billy Name 3/02