

Steve Sabella's 'Search'

THE nature, children and some architectural features were the subject of the camera of the Jerusalemite photographer Steve Sabella in his exhibition in Ramallah recently. Sabella, 28, was able to realize the importance of the contents on earth for photographing, perfectly as if he were a visual artist doing paintings and not only fast shots. They are eternal pictures and paintings like the eternity of the earth and the place Man is living in.

Taking photos for the spirit of the nature goes with the nature of Sabella, who is concerned with the romance of the scene as he were in a search inside himself for spirits he already knows and likes. And so he called his second personal

exhibition 'Search' whether it was the search of the sight for what can be seen or the search of the camera and its ability to give the meaning.

Whilst looking at the works of Sabella, the audience gets to an important results; that is the photographer here has done his work only after he liked the scene. He is photographing what he likes upon his will and feeling, which we can call self-art. This school of arts is distinguished with honesty and simplicity. Liking the work helps it to succeed.

The exhibition confirms to us the love Sabella has for the trees and their leaves, shapes, flowers and kinds. It also reveals his love to light, sun, sunset and water. The exhibition also confirms that Sabella is mature in his work. He

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realizes the capabilities of the white and black; especially as most of the photos in the exhibition are in black and white. He was able to use the color degrees between the white and black in giving details of the scene. That can obviously be seen in the flowering trees, olives and water. And so he gave us rich details in the pictures.

Sabella was also interested in the visual elements in the picture as appeared in the picture of the leaves on the water. He likes leaves and so he took photo for two hands offering leaves as if a present to the audience or as if the trees give this present to him and to the human beings.

In his colored pictures, Sabella focused on children; such as pupils in classrooms. The green shows hope at the same time you find a picture for a mother and her kids standing before the camera and so you get different mixed feelings: Determination, fear and confusion. The face of the little child in the picture of the military checkpoint occupies main position as if the child is asking about the future or as if he is challenging the soldiers with his innocence.

Two pictures for children in the playground reveal a discovery for the space of the playground and its brown color, which becomes more beautiful with the children distributed randomly in it. These pictures are not far from playing with colors in the visual art.

Sabella might be looking for light too as well as he is searching for the summit and so he takes time in showing the windows, lightening, and shade. He also likes ancient building, rocks and ground as they enrich the human and artistic imagination.

The things that Sabella is looking at and photographing are no longer just solid things; plants and ground, they are feelings and imaginations those things possess as if he were moving the color and visual energy inside these things through his sensitive camera.

This is the Search of Sabella in his exhibition. It isn't a search in the outside only, but also a search in the inside of things to reveal what is inside and how it feels and thinks.