

# World Press Photo Exhibition 2011

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One day, I bought a good camera, I thought I would become a photographer, but the fact was that I simply became a camera owner.

All of us live in this world, all of us encounter the same reality, but not all of us perceive it in the same way. While most of us travel around and look at things from different perspectives, a photographer identifies particular aspects of things and extracts their features to share them with others through the optic of his or her camera. Amazingly a photographer sees in things what others cannot see. A photographer feels invited to take the photo; as a matter of fact, a photographer sees the photo before taking it. It is not a question of what we see; it is rather how we see what we see.

Moreover, if I may make this comparison, a photographer is like a mirror that reflects the reality with the impact of its characteristics on the reflection (The example of the Mirror Room). Not all photographers see things the same way.

Furthermore, a photo is the setting where two people meet and introduce themselves to each other; I mean the photographer who makes the photo and the viewer who is called to discover it. Indeed, a photo is not merely taken but personally made with the artistic angle of the photographer, thus leading the viewer to look beyond what is into the photo, to the point of transforming the viewer into reader of the photo.

Many have said that photos are snapshots and instances taken in a box and displayed on papers. This could be technically true, but I personally do not think it this way. A photo for me can never be a moment of the past or a simple mute scenery entrenched in a frame, a photo is somewhat alive and has at all times something to say. I have always believed that

a photo speaks and reveals the truth more than words; indeed, someone had already said that a picture is worth a thousand words.

At the end, I praise this joint venture and recognize the efforts of all partners. As well, I thank all contributors to the success of this great event, in particular, Mr. Noel Nasr.

Congratulations, wonderful job!