

SIT DOWN

4, rue sainte-anastase 75003 paris - france - tél. 01 42 78 08 07 - sit.down@wanadoo.fr - www.sitdown.fr

« Greece; the Innocent Years »
Photographs of Robert McCabe
SIT DOWN Gallery
from November 7, 2008 to January 17, 2009
Exhibition presented within the framework of
Month of the Photography in Paris, November 2008

Under the high patronage of His Excellency
Dimitrios Paraskevopoulos,
Ambassador of Greece in France.

On the occasion of the exhibition at Sit Down Gallery the book " Grèce: les années d'innocence" will be published by Editions Filigranes, complimented with 30 boxed copies with an original print signed and numbered by the artist. The book has a preface by Prince Michael of Greece and a text by Gabriel Bauret.



Sounion 1955. The temple of Poseidon.
© Robert McCabe



Epeiros 1961. The three companions.
© Robert McCabe



The Hellenic Star 1955. Preparation for arrival.
© Robert McCabe

This exhibition is an invitation to discover a photographer whose name for the moment is unknown in France. It is in effect the first time that Robert McCabe has exhibited in Paris. He has exhibited his photographs many times in Greece, where he now resides part of the year and where he has already published two books of photographs of that country.

The images which he is presenting were for the most part taken in the 1950s. For many years they stayed in drawers as this talented amateur was focussing on activities other than photography.

The exhibition reveals a work which offers nothing avant-garde or trendsetting. It is simply close to its subject, adheres to the pleasures and emotions experienced by their author, and this makes them sincere and consequently attractive. The work belongs entirely to the decade of the 1950s in terms of the reality they depict and even their form. The photographs should be considered related to the photographs published in the pages of "Life" or "U.S. Camera Annual" where McCabe found models.

The images ennoble this cradle of western culture and exalt its values and traditions. The documentary interest of the work of Robert McCabe is undeniable, tied to a strong sense of nostalgia. Through their generous square format the photographs offer minute detail, and reveal a country displaying a very rural character, and an antiquity which has not yet been taken over by mass tourism.

Robert McCabe encountered a society that was often poor but always dignified. He shows the Acropolis before it was hemmed in by the city. The photographer meets archaeologists who are working with means which today might seem rudimentary. As for the landscapes, they are delivered here in all their purity. There is no place where the sea light has an equivalent and the way Robert McCabe presents it in a precise and nuanced black and white underlines even more their exceptional visual properties.

This photographic voyage translates the enthusiasm, the pleasure of discovery: precious happiness which gives us the feeling that until now is has been shared with very few.

Gabriel Bauret

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Astypalaia 1963. At the port. © Robert McCabe



Thera 1961. View of Perissa from Ancient Thera.
© Robert McCabe

Biography

Born in 1934 in Chicago, Robert McCabe was given his first camera at age 5: a Kodak Baby Brownie. Initially his interests centered on news photography as his father worked for a picture newspaper in New York. He photographed car and train accidents, hurricane damage and anything else that appeared newsworthy. At age 15 he went to school in western Massachusetts and began to understand that photographs had the potential to be a form of poetry, and he began to photograph landscapes, still lifes, and people..

In 1954 he made his first visit to France and Greece, equipped with a Rolleiflex with a 75 mm Zeiss lens. He returned to Greece in 1955 aboard a cargo ship. The photographs from these first trips to Greece were first exhibited at Princeton University. Since then his images have been the object of five exhibitions in the United States and eight in Greece.

In 1957 he accepted an assignment to photograph some of the Aegean islands in colour for the National Geographic Society, and in 1959 he travelled to the South Pole as a photo-journalist.

For many years McCabe made his own prints but in recent years he has collaborated with George and Sophie Marinos of Idolo Labs in Athens. McCabe's wife was born in Athens and studied journalism and political science in Paris. McCabe is currently preparing for publication a book of photographs of the Antarctic.

One Man Exhibitions

2008: " On the road with a Rollei in the '50s"

2006: " Santorini and the Aegean"

" The Years of Innocence"

" Greece, in Honor of Queen Sophia"

" Greece "

2005: " Greece: the Years of Innocence"

1967: " Greece "

1962: " Paris "

1960: Travelling exhibition in the U.S. " Greece"

1955 : " Mycenae "

" Paris "

" Greece "

1954: " Greece "

Rizarios Photographic Exhibition Centre, Monodendri, Greece

Nomikos Exhibition Centre, Santorini.

National Bank of Greece Cultural Centre, Patras. Greece

The Queen Sophie Spanish Institute, New York. USA

Jackson Hole Art center, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. USA

Cultural Centre of the National Bank of Greece, Thessaloniki, Greece

Cultural Centre of the National Bank of Greece Athens. Greece

Olympic Gallery, New York, USA

The French Library of Boston. USA

Deerfield Academy and other institutions.

Graphic Arts department, Princeton University, Princeton – USA

Firestone Library Map department, Princeton University, Princeton. USA

Graphic Arts department, Princeton University, Princeton – USA

Graphic Arts department, Princeton University, Princeton – USA

Practical Informations

Exhibition from november 7, 2008 through January 17, 2009

from Tuesday through Saturday from 2 pm to 7 pm.

SIT DOWN Gallery : 4, rue Sainte Anastase, 75003 Paris

Tél : 01 42 78 08 07

Email : sit.down@wanadoo.fr - www.sitdown.fr

Press images provided on request.

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