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THE ETERNAL CITY THROUGH THE EYES OF TEENAGER.

The Art of Foto Gallery opened an exhibition of Italian photographer, theater and film director John R. Pepper "Rome 1969 ". That year he was 11 years old, his father - -head of the Roman office of 'Newsweek' magazine- - gave him a 35mm "Pentax" camera. The boy didn't make touristic beauty pictures and there was a strong reason.

"In my parent's house there were the stars of Italian Neorealism — De Sica, Fellini, Antonioni." Pepper remembers how the famous photographer Henri Cartier - Bresson studied his father Bill's photographs, turned them upside down and talked about the composition. "I was present at this moment and greedily absorbed all saying" — he says.

So John went to working class neighborhoods, such as, Garbatella, where Pasolini shot his early film "Mamma Roma". The young photo-reporter took a photo of people who were 'beautiful' for him —kids his age, a large family, modest pensioners, consumers of cotton candy or an old man who is hiding from the snow under a black umbrella.

When asked by our newspaper, Pepper said, that doesn't give names to his pictures and does not put the dates when they were taken. "A good photo exists outside of time, outside of the context, the imagination of viewer should not be limited."

One picture at the exhibition requires explanations: it captures the sun's reflections on a liscen plate, "SCV 1"— that means it is the most important car in the Vatican, in other words, the Pope's car.

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