Far away but close

Antonio Skármeta

As writers, we admire the art of photographers - so close to reality and at the same time enigmatically personal. We are amazed by its dance, interwoven in the movement of ebbing lights and shadows; its suggestive presence hitting us in a single gush: that touch of revelation, atmosphere and color that merge us affectively with the image.

Not unlike the photo, we succumb to the poem, with its brief and paused breaths. Through half-closed eyelids we are witness to the plenitude of the moment, which invites us to simultaneously see and feel the familiar contours that are engraved in our daily lives.

Presence, image, and suggestion: art's sacred trinity is embodied with such generous concentration in these images by Jessica Backhaus, who we as Chileans should thank for making so exquisitely visible, what we are too distracted to notice. The power of the color that portrays and crowns the subject, provokes the sensation that we are seeing something we see every day but haven't actually seen before.

Jessica has the natural ability to make relevant the most minimal. She has the talent to give it a touch of transcendence to the ephemeral, sensing the exact light needed to create its charm. Her photographs combine the simplicity of the motive with a sophisticated eye that makes them fresh, even inaugural.