

At Fondazione Fotografia in Modena the exhibition "The Nature is My Kingdom" dedicated to Ansel Adams' masterpieces.

Dealing with the expository path of Ansel Adams' exhibition means to approach, to get in touch with an extreme experiment of perfection.

The effort that requires this closeness with the idea of *creation*, with the supreme, imposes a considerable sacrifice of time. I would warn against the careless and hurried tourists of the 'grab & run' culture such imposition.

This is not for all. The dizziness may hurt.

Those who do not understand the mystical nearness to a divine order hazard to distort its true scope. They risk to label the work, as often happens with things that are considered common heritage - public domain - affordable for all.

This under-thought, exasperated by contemporary photographic practice, is *light* years far from reality.

Ansel Adams has persistently applied to his work: method, discipline, devotion, love. First of all he visualized and then he transferred his idea of Eden onto paper with silver salts.

He has done this, for all his life, at the highest possible level, theorizing and disseminating a theology, a creed, founding a church of the art of photography. He has not limited its sphere of activity in search of a subject but he has shaped it as a Creator.

Each one of his photograph is a container of absolute.

The subject, the camera, the negative, the light, the exposure, the printing, the editing.

The creator of the "zone system", even when, by chance, he was in front of the "Moonrise, Hernandez", he reacted, in the short time available, as if he had been always there, as if the scene placed at its disposal had been ordered by him.

He did his tutelary deity, the Half Dome, the archetype of monolith. The primordial shape of the idea of how a mountain has to be: but also, and above

all, how this picture had to be taken.

Finally.

His mighty prints that take your breath away.

Any printing could hardly be measured up. Let's enjoy them closely. We can say, quoting Charles-Henri Favrod: "This is a triumph, in glory, of photography"