Good afternoon. I want to tell you about my passion for photography.

This interest arose not long ago, about a year or so. Pictorial art attracted my attention from my childhood, but it appeared inaccessible to me. Unfortunately, I am not able to wield the brush like artists do. However, in the modern world there is another way of self-expression for people like me. This is photography.

Both in the art of photography and in painting there are portraits, landscapes, etc. Not every amateur-photographer can take such a photo looking at which one feels as if the blood is going to freeze in veins, or, on the contrary, spreading warmth and peace… Much depends not only on the camera but on the photographer’s artistic perception. One needn’t have modern photographic device to get good pictures, but the photo retouching doesnot always remove defects as well.

Choosing between black-and-white or colored pictures, in most cases I prefer the former. I think that black-and- white photos convey “the soul” of a picture much better than colored ones. Greyscale does not let our brains to be distracted by the variety of colors. Eyes are not attracted to the objects standing out because of their bright colors. Sometimes, on the contrary, the photo conceived as a color one, is best perceived as a black-and-white picture.

I want to share a photo I have taken recently. My girlfriend came to visit me, and we went for a walk around the city. Walking along the pavement near the cafe, I suddenly realized that it was the place I wanted to take a photo of at that moment. My girlfriend walked a little forward, and I stopped to take a picture.

It had been snowing the day before, but leaves didn’t all fallen off, they didn’t even lose their colour. So my original intention was to illustrate this contradiction of nature, but further processing of this picture made me change my mind and make it black-and-white. It was my own decision, but I always ask advice of my husband because he has been in photography much longer than I have.

My husband agreed. Despite of being black-and-white the picture has not lost its magic, but instead it has gained an accent. My girlfriend who is nearly in the centre of the picture has become this accent. In the color version eyes are attracted to the top edge of the picture, as there is light, fairly bright shade of green colour and yellow colour from the left side.

The black-and-white version of the picture is as good as its color one conveying the original concept of “contradiction of nature”. The outline of leaves on the snow is drawn much better due to the relief of a black-and-white picture. The car leaving the yard, the storefront and advertisement does not distract us from the centre of the exposition. A lonely figure of the girl and beautiful lights against the “rich” trees are now in the focus of the picture.

Comparing these two photos we can’t say that one of them is bad and the other is magnificent. No! Each photo is fine and correct in its own way. Each of them is beautiful in its own way.