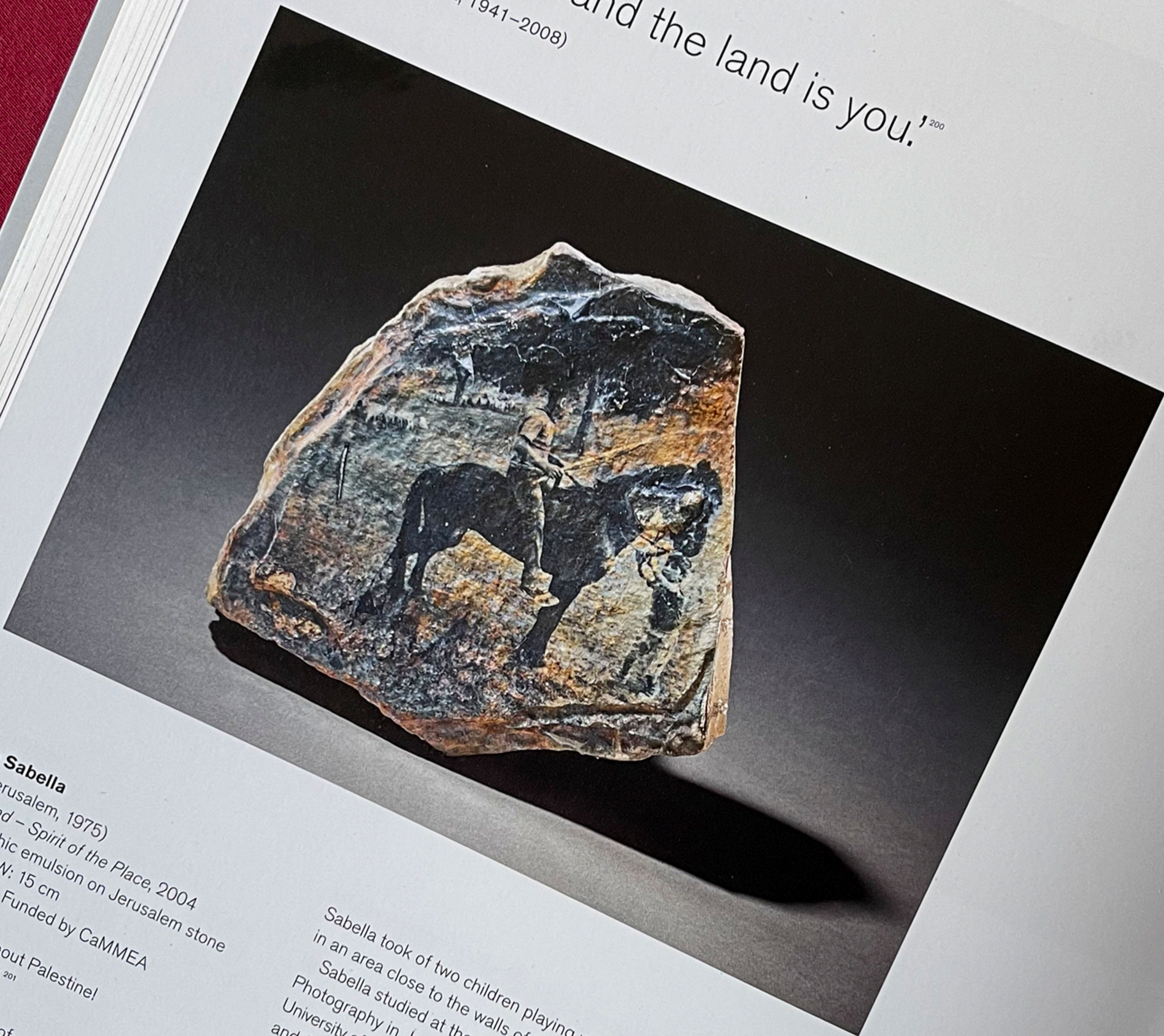


Palestine

'I am the land and the land is you.'²⁰⁰
(Mahmoud Darwish, 1941–2008)



Steve Sabella

(born Jerusalem, 1975)
Till the End – Spirit of the Place, 2004

Photographic emulsion on Jerusalem stone
H: 15.5 cm W: 15 cm
2010.6024.1. Funded by CaMMEA

'My Art Is Not About Palestine!
It's About My Life.'²⁰¹

Printed onto a piece of yellow limestone from
Jerusalem is a black and white photograph

Sabella took of two children playing with a horse in an area close to the walls of the Old City. Sabella studied at the Musrara School of Photography in Jerusalem and later at the State University of New York, the University of Westminster and Sotheby's Institute of Art. In making *Till the End – Spirit of the Place*, Sabella revisited and picked up small stones from places he cherished as a child, in fear of their disappearance. 'It [the work] has an archaeological quality to it and emanates a profound sense of loss. Yet it also offers an archive of subjective memories without

resorting to the sentimental.' The image evokes a sense of place but at the same time questions the artist's relationship to that place and to his own identity: he has been living in Berlin since 2010. The Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata's (1942–2019) words capture this notion: 'The city that from time immemorial was considered a bridge between heaven and earth may be absent in Sabella's photographs, but everything in them indicates how, in solitude, the native photographer rebuilt his own Jerusalem.'²⁰²

