Calcutta Through the Lens of Prabir Purkayastha

Calcutta, the world’s most magnificent colonial city, is a visual amalgamation of architectural splendor. Prabir Purkayastha, a photographer, began to fade, Indian-born photographer Prabir Purkayastha took up his camera to document the city’s remaining colonial architecture. The resulting images—each one a poignant narrative of nostalgia—form his “Stories in Stone,” on view now at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, NY, United States.

Purkayastha, “Watching helplessly as communities slowly fell into decay and the once-vibrant, diverse demographics that were once a part of this city collected dust, took the pictures behind his lens in his native city, the place he feels at home in.”

Despite its large population, Calcutta, once considered the filthiest city in the world, has been home to numerous individuals of influence, from Mother Theresa to Indian filmmaker, Satyajit Ray. A major trading port and base for the British East India Company during British colonization, Calcutta grew large quickly, and with its rapid urbanization, came challenges. Taking note as the city’s historical façades began to fade, Indian-born photographer Prabir Purkayastha began to fade, Indian-born photographer Prabir Purkayastha took up his camera to document the city’s remaining colonial architecture. The resulting images—each one a poignant narrative of nostalgia—form his “Stories in Stone,” on view now at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, NY, United States.

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