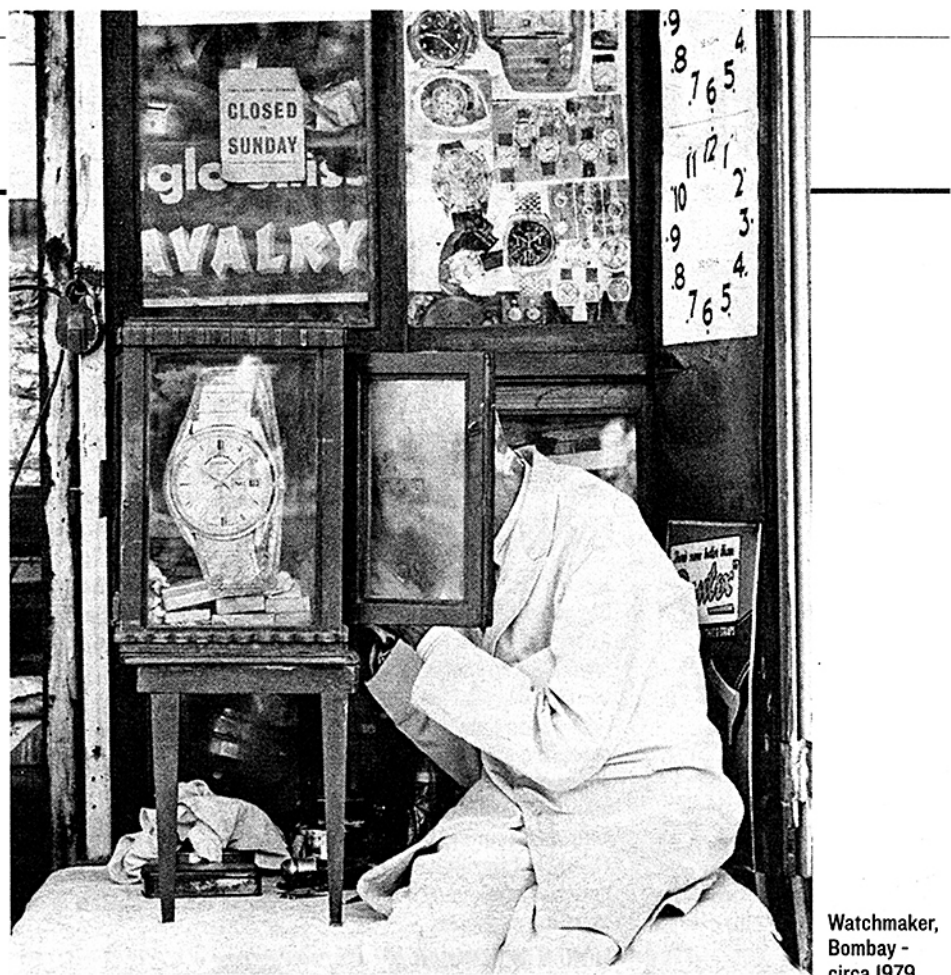


06 HITLIST ART



Roadside Photo Studio, Bombay - circa 1979. PICS COURTESY PABLO BARTHOLOMEW



Watchmaker, Bombay - circa 1979

Smile, this is BOMBAY

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER PABLO BARTHOLOMEW RECOUNTS HIS FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF THE CITY THAT PROVIDED HIM AN ESCAPE FROM WHAT HE HAD KNOWN

PHOTOGRAPHY

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For Delhi-based photographer Pablo Bartholomew, Mumbai, then Bombay, provided an escape from the claustrophobia he had begun to associate with the city he grew up in. "Everybody knew everybody in Delhi; it was a very small circle of people," he says in a telephonic interview from the capital city.

Speaking about his recent exhibition, 'Chronicles of a Past Life - Bombay', which is on view at an ongoing exhibition at Photoink in Jhandewalan, Faiz Road in New Delhi, he says, "Bombay is a special place. It is a city that people come to make a better life; to escape their environments no matter where they are from," says the award-winning photojournalist.

The series of black and white photographs offer an insight into the places and people in the city that Pablo would find acceptance in and grow to love. Pablo, who dropped out of school at the age of 15, said he came to Bombay, as so many others had and continue to do, in search of a livelihood. "In a professional sense, it made sense to come to Bombay. If you

look at the film or advertising industries, for instance, you see that people from all parts of the country come there to make a living."

While Pablo's trips to the city have become less frequent, as his work now takes him around the world, he says that he would love to visit the city more often. When he does, he still makes it a point to stop by the Olympia Café in Colaba. "It's diagonally opposite Leopold's," he specifies, adding, "I usually order a Mutton Masala with roti or have a breakfast of kheema-pao." Sahiba in Bandra for its Gomantak cuisine is another one of Pablo's favourite haunts.

Memories of South Bombay

Colaba, Fort and Ballard estate are among Pablo's favourite places in the city. "Primarily because I have a sense of familiarity with those places. Those were the places that I walked around and grew up in. I find the whole Fort area fascinating. To just walk down Marine Drive in the monsoon, it's amazing," he says.

While there are certain ways in which Mumbai is similar to New York, Pablo says that there are very different. "Geographically they are quite similar. But they are very different in terms of their social fabric; Bombay is far more complex."



Taxi Driver with Passengers, Bombay - circa 1979



Capital Talkies Building, Bombay - circa 1979