

Ronny Sen photographs a beautiful Polish winter

The photographer finds in Gdańsk, a serendipitous connection to Kolkata—his home city

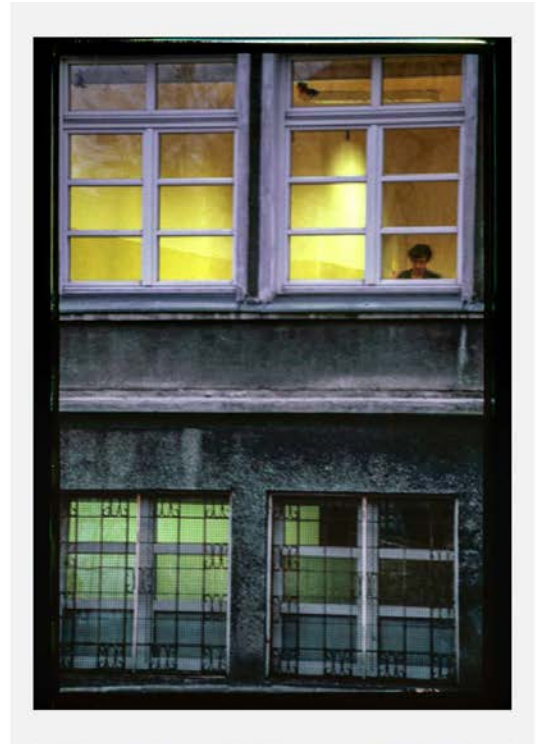
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Ronny Sen



Dregs of a common political past is what photographer Ronny Sen thought he would find when he moved to the Polish port city of Gdańsk for an art residency last year. Sen came from Kolkata, a city ruled by a Communist government for more than three decades, and expected to find in Poland—also an erstwhile communist regime—a landscape similar to where he came from. But the harder he tried, the harder it became. Until he started exploring the mundane. Over time, Sen began to shoot the everyday life of the residents of Gdańsk: houses, buildings, roads, trees, and traffic lights.



And he found in them all a glimmer of the city's failed political past, which at one point was its shiny red beacon of hope. "In the strange and melancholic Polish winter, I grappled anew with the fading of the Left. But found chance traces left behind unnoticed in crevices, there in the streets where solidarity had once emerged," says the 30-year-old Sen.



The result is an exhibition of photographs, “New world chronicles of an old world colour” which Sen captured over his stay in Poland. From glowing windows to shadowy chandeliers to withering trees, the collection captures perfectly the nostalgic melancholy of a grey Polish winter. And ironically, it’s this sentiment which the photographer, a complete stranger to the city, finally found a sense of familiarity in.



The exhibition is on from July 7 to July 28 at Tarq gallery, Colaba, Mumbai.