Peter Trinh is at Kinoki San Cristóbal.

I had been wanting to write a short love letter to Sn Cristobal del las Casas for a while, and the perfect opportunity presented itself. Paul O'Connor premiered his own love letter in the form of an art exhibition titled "THE LAST OF THE VOCHOS."

Upon arriving and witnessing the opening ceremony of the exhibition to the public at the Studio Nauyaca Gallery, I encountered a detailed and meticulous exhibition in which even the lamps were decorated with style. It was a head-to-head artistic style that hadn't been seen for more than a generation. The admiration and elegance of this kind of theme were evident and had been recreated with great care. It was hard not to get carried away by the same feelings.

The space was small, like most places in the city, and the exposure was confined to a single wall, but it made a big impression. There were photographs of several classic Volkswagen Beetles in specific locations in the city, accompanied by small-scale models and toy replicas known as "Hot Wheels," and some of the photographs were framed in square frames to give them the look of a premium package item.

The host, Paul, personally greeted all attendees and engaged in enthusiastic conversation; offered complimentary snacks and drinks, and even organized a raffle with three prizes. His enthusiasm for the subject and for the city was evident, and we all got infected by him. This is something that can’t be captured with the typical social media scrolling or any other digital media, and it’s a weighty argument to skip doom scrolling and attend in person. Elegant demeanor, but no pretensions.

What impressed me while studying each of the photo exhibitions is how Paul does not try to hide or deny the dark sides of this city that those who stay have come to appreciate and even love. St. Christopher de las Casas is like a favorite piece of clothing, worn but extremely comfortable, in which one is free to explore and be who needs or wants to be without expectations; and for many, a place to put their lives in order if these cause them trouble.

Many visitors to this city have told me how, over time, the initial charm and colors become dull, monotonous and lifeless after the arrival of darkness; and as they leave and return later, they find that honeymoon charm again of steady form. This exhibition has managed to bring together in a single wall the entire range of colors and beauty that captivates visitors, and reminds us that it is up to us to fill the canvas of life with beauty, while accepting the darkness that sometimes overshadows our inner landscape. I recommend visiting the exhibition, which will stay in this location for a couple of weeks and then move to two other locations in the city for a few more weeks, so there are plenty of opportunities to discover your love and appreciation for this city.

If you would like to learn more about Paul O'Connor, make enquiries or explore more of his work, you can visit his website at **https://www.undercurrents.org/**