Mexico is one of Latin America’s most popular states. It is popular for a number of reasons, including cultural and historical events encompassing a number of centuries. This fascinating place hosts thousands of visitors from both the western and non-western world every year.

So what is Attard seeing while shooting this series? Is there a common dominator with the history of the place since his piece features the Mexican flag, or is it only an aesthetic exercise? It is easy to compose something aesthetically pleasing in such colourful environment. No difficulty at all to find a corner in the city to capture the state of this important country. But what did Attard arrest in these snapshots? He definitely captures colour, bright vivid warm colours which reflects the hot weather. Attard also captures the repetition of texture, horizontal and vertical lines which make the viewer understand what the composition is all about. The subject captured in these photos is in fact a number of shutters; very colourful and textured shutters. What do these shutters tell us from an aesthetic point of view? And what is so intriguing in shooting a number of shutters? The most compelling aspect of these shutters is the solid flat warm colours with textural motifs. But, is Attard interested in the aesthetics of these shutters. Where did he see these shutters? Where these found in a particular neighbourhood or rather is there a detail which makes these shutters different from others. He could have easily taken photos of a number of shutters here in Malta.

For sure the artist would not find the same minute detail here on the islands which make these shutters so unique and captivating, so much so, to take photos and put them together in a way to represent the Mexican flag. These details are the heavy padlocks seen on each shutter. On a number of shutters there is more than one padlock. And why do people put padlock to their doors or shutters which usually closes automatically. Here it seems that a heavy padlock is a requirement. These padlocks symbolise lack of security. Due to the lack of security the people need to put one, two or three padlocks to secure their belongings in this area. The people are scared. What are they scared of? This can be anything that we as the externals can only imagine and assume when viewing Attard’s photos. The owners of the shutters are constantly aware of such lack of security and will surely question the adequateness of the protection afforded by these these padlocks.

When asking the artist a couple of questions in relation to these images he contrasted this lack of security with that found on the three Maltese islands especially Gozo. Gozo is perceived to be so safe by its inhabitants that in a number of villages the occupants still leave their main doors unlocked. This cannot help Attard not making such an observation on his homeland even though he is on the other side of the globe. As is the case with a number of Maltese, most probably the artist realises the luxury in living without any fear of one’s general safety in contrast to the possible threats that such huge popular cities can convey.

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