

Thousands of Photographs Created These Hyper-Real Portraits of Historic Buildings

German artist Markus Brunetti brings a high-tech approach to capturing centuries-old cathedrals

By Julissa Treviño

FEBRUARY 21, 2018



German photographer Markus Brunetti has taken a unique, digital approach to photographing historic monuments.

Instead of capturing the buildings and subjects in one shot, Brunetti takes thousands of high-resolution, detail shots of a single monument before digitally compiling the images into one larger-than-life portrait.

This high-tech approach to capturing centuries-old cathedrals, churches, synagogues and other structures is currently at the center of his show, “Markus Brunetti: FACADES-Grand Tour,” at the Yossi Milo Gallery in New York City, open through April 7.

Brunetti’s works can span more than four feet high, a scale intended to swallow viewers in the architectural spaces. In order to complete his hyper-realistic interpretations of historic monuments, Brunetti tells Brook Mason for *Architectural Digest* that he first photographs monuments top to bottom, focusing on small details at a time. He then strips out modern-day elements “from streetlights to cars, and finally select individual images.”

This incredibly detailed approach means that it can take him months to capture images of a single monument; *The New Yorker*’s Andrea K. Scott writes that he once spent eight years on one image of the *Duomo di Santa Maria Nascente*, in Milan.

According to *The New York Times*’ Jamie Sims, Brunetti and his partner, photographer Betty Schoener, have spent more a decade traveling through Western Europe in a truck to capture photographs in painstaking detail. And Mason of *Architectural Digest* reports that the duo just completed a trip through Lithuania, Italy, Portugal, England and France.

They plan on going to Russia and Middle Asia next.