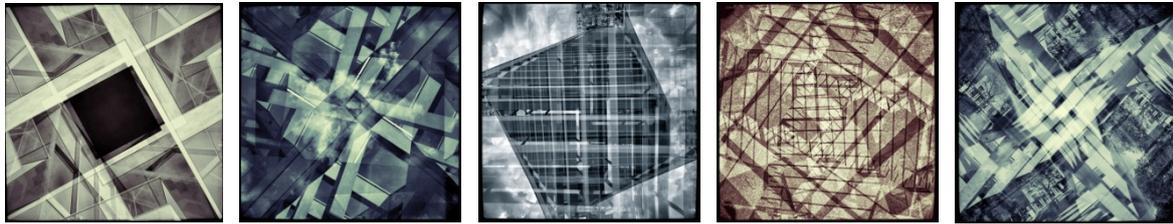


## LensCulture Review

Art Photography 2019



Hello Michael. I chose your portfolio of images, “constructivism” to review your series because I find it visually interesting. I have taken some time to study your photos, while looking at your statement. You included an insightful statement that says, “The idea for the multiple exposures came from the montage. Targeted multiple exposure of architectural elements, from which abstract images with a completely new aesthetics have emerged. Each of the pictures has its own character, although each time the same building was photographed.” What an interesting project, especially originating from a film camera!

You are obviously a highly skilled photographer and I think you composed your images to create narrative, abstract experiences for the viewer. It appears that you are working on making photos in a unique, creative and artistic way, where each photo tells a story about your experience of architecture and the geometry that is reflected in those forms.

These imaginary worlds you create remove the viewer from their commonly understood vantage points and you take them into more surreal worlds. By compositionally combining, layering, and transposing photos you create compositions that promote feelings of uncertainty and the formation of order within disorder. The viewer can feel the ground shifting beneath their feet! By moving and removing the context of the subjects the images become very abstract. You put the viewer in a position to speculate what (or where) it is they are seeing. Because of this, the images evoke ideas around vantage point, perception, and imagination.

Somehow the photos communicate ideas about reality and the way it can blend with a dream reality of a cubist inspired “eternal” city. In this way there is change, danger, and a fluid movement into alternate realities. I think your ideas and your observations are fascinating, the way you are able to create a sense of fluidity and movement with subjects that are traditionally seen as static and stationary. The photos resemble geometric mandalas. For me, the images are powerful in a group, but they are also beautiful as individual photos.

Your creations display compositions that fill the square photographic frame. The buildings appear to be geometric-graphic elements on the page, prompting the viewer to ask questions about their actions, their freedom to move, and their locations. The photos are interesting because they blur the line between photography and compositional, poetic design. These visual abstractions and creative visions are clearly important characters in your

stories. I think you are also asking that the viewer be sensitive enough to look deeply at your images, to see the details you have included in the frame and to consider the issues you talk about in your statement.

There are strong visual threads that clearly run through your portfolio and the first one is monochromatic color. Your photography seeks to capture the magic that color, light, and shadow can communicate. I think the way you use single colors speaks about the mystery of structure as it rises out of chaos. You use color and geometry as transformational, alchemical tools to transmute what you see into what you would like others to see. Other threads are lines, glassy grids, and patterns. In the photos the vantage point is unknown, yet it is as though the viewer's perspective is changing within the reality they see in the photos.

Another major thread is abstraction. These photos are deeply mysterious because they are so abstract. Because the subjects in these photos are not immediately identifiable, you capture images that go straight to the viewer's imagination. For example, every single photo is dramatic, rich with possibility and evoke feelings of curiosity. Your juxtaposition of visual elements makes the photos visually poetic. You ask the viewer to reason why certain structures have been composed to form visual relationships with other structures – much in the same way we might see in a dream.

I can imagine these photos printed very large, to inspire feelings of awe by creating a sense of scale for the viewer. Large-scale presentation could prompt the viewer to feel small when confronted by the ideas of standing in front of these architectural megaliths. Viewers would feel confronted with the feeling of unexpected perspectives and imaginary stories.

A second observation/suggestion also has to do with presentation. I suggest that the photos would be effective in a book. I think your ideas, combined with the photos will make a more cohesive presentation. Also with a book, the viewer can hold the images, making the interaction more personal. You could even use the title of the series as the title of the book!

Your images are very dynamic. They are full of observations and questions about life, architecture, and beauty hidden within the city! Your images prove that being observant and creative is very exciting and who knows where it will lead. Also, don't feel like you need to be married to the photography world. My advice is that you enter juried art exhibitions and/or show your work within art communities. I think that your images would do well in an "art" environment. Your photos really do cross a lot of boundaries, which is highly encouraged in the art world. I suggest you keep an eye on [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) for themed calls for artists.

I have enjoyed looking at your photos and it is clear that photography is one of your passions! Your images and your project are very thought provoking and creative. They are full of stories waiting to be discovered! Yes, I would strongly encourage you to keep pursuing your interest in how these geometric treasures evoke shifting perspectives. But, look at lots of portfolios that can provide inspiration and creative energy for your project. Find the work of artists or even architects that inspire you! I very much enjoyed looking at your photos and I appreciate the way your images are masterfully considered and carefully designed. I hope I have sufficiently answered your questions. I have enjoyed reviewing your photos and I look forward to seeing what you will do next!