

Artist statement - Robin Vandenabeele

Robin Vandenabeele is a photographer that resides in Bruges, Belgium when he is not travelling or sent abroad for professional reasons.

He mainly creates handheld double exposure photographs of architecture and landscapes with film and digital cameras. His photographic work is highly graphic and abstract and often manages to engage and surprise the viewer as it manages to show new interpretations of the reality around us.

The familiarity of the scenes combined with the surreal intervention provided by the multiple exposure technique offers a unique new take on sore old sights. The transformation refreshes and gives new life to the landscapes or urban vistas that have sometimes have become bland or a caricature of themselves because of the myriads of digital photos taken and shared every day.

The artist attempts to offer new ways of looking by using everyday lines and forms to lead the eye into a new photographic reality.

On a technical note, every artwork is made by overlapping two consecutive exposures in the camera, this can be achieved by not winding the film roll or instructing the digital camera to combine exposures. Two consecutive exposures are made with a 180° rotation of the camera inbetween shutter releases and are carefully aligned by hand. The resulting images show where the overlapping highlights, for example an overcast sky, blow out the darker parts of the image, creating graphic shapes and merging and morphing architecture and landscapes into new versions of themselves, often making them seem as if they are floating in mid air.

Robin's artworks can be displayed and will make sense as single artworks but are almost always part of small mini series that could explore anything from a landscape or skyline to building details. Several of these series together make up a full documentation of a single trip or cover a city.