



Markus Brunetti, *Wells Cathedral Church of St. Andrews*, 2015-2016 Archival Pigment Print (© Markus Brunetti, Courtesy Yossi Milo Gallery, New York)

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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](#)

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

Instead of capturing the buildings and subjects in one shot, Burnett 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 Chelsea 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, Burnett 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.

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Julissa Treviño is a writer and journalist based in Texas. She has written for *Columbia Journalism Review*, *BBC Future*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Racked*, *CityLab* and *Pacific Standard*.

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