



clakshots

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID A KNUDSEN



PRESS KIT

Bio

David A. Knudsen (aka DAK) has been shooting pictures nearly all of his life. His fascination with composing and capturing images started with a Kodak Instamatic given to him at age 7. Thus began the experimenting that he's continually indulged in ever since.

Although he chose architecture as his major in college, his minor in photography is what he ultimately pursued. It comes as no surprise, however, that architecture is one of his most significant photographic subject matters.

Travelling around the world and seeing so many varying approaches to life and its many routines has been a life-changing experience for DAK. This has fueled his curiosity and passion for finding creative new approaches to his art.

Having spent eight years working as a studio artist and presentation specialist in a prominent national advertising agency, he mastered the studio skills which are now a regular part of his repertoire. In his West LA studio, he produces all of his gallery-wrapped canvases by hand— from printing, to UV-coating to stretching and finishing.



DAK's work has been exhibited in over two dozen shows since he began DAKshots in 2005. He's represented by three galleries in different regions of Los Angeles, including LACMA's Art Rental & Sales Gallery. His work is owned by scores of collectors— including both individuals and corporate clients.

Artist's Statement: *Through My Eyes*

Come and see the world through my eyes, where the ordinary appears extraordinary; where reality twists and turns; and new meanings are given to our everyday surroundings. My objective is to captivate you and to open your mind to this unique perspective.

ABSTRACTIONS are a way of thinking; a way of seeing. They have meaning, yet what that meaning is exactly, is purely subjective. The beauty of an abstract is that I can put forth my visual interpretation—my aesthetic viewpoint—knowing that when you take from it something completely different, that is when the fun truly starts.

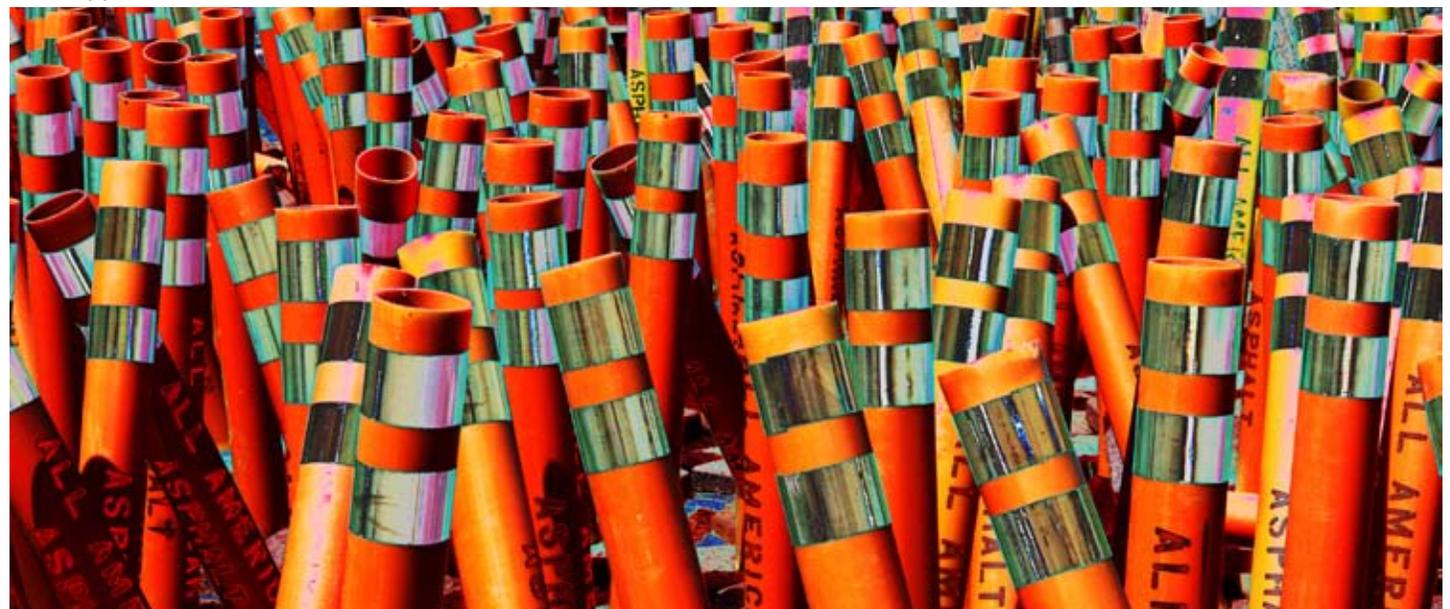
My passion for **ARCHITECTURE** has driven me to seek out and reinterpret these functional works of art in new and exciting ways. Quirky angles, sharp contrasts and warped reflections take these static forms to a defiant plane, challenging your perception of what is actually before your eyes.

One of the most mysterious and exciting elements of our world is **LIGHT**. As a photographic subject, the possibilities are endless. Much of my work focuses on dynamic sources of light such as speeding traffic, fire and neon. Using slow exposures, zooming and movement, I create painterly images, conveying the aesthetic beauty and energy they possess. Adding rain or moisture to the equation provides a fascinating display of reflection and refraction to further enhance their mystique.

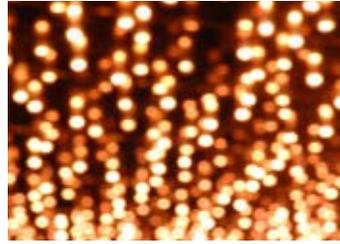
While most of my pieces fall into one or more of these three genres, our visual world is simply way too vast and complex to so neatly categorize. With the infinite beauty and wonder that is all around, I am never at a loss for intriguing subjects. Whether dark or light, wet or dry, natural or industrial, I'm always on the hunt for that stimulating new composition. And when I capture it with my camera, I give thanks and anxiously await the opportunity for you to see the world through my eyes.

—David A Knudsen

L.A. Poppies

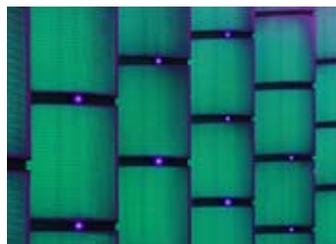
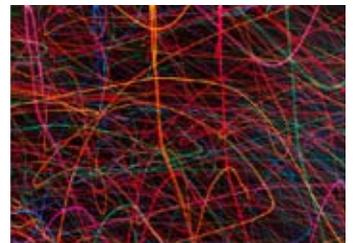
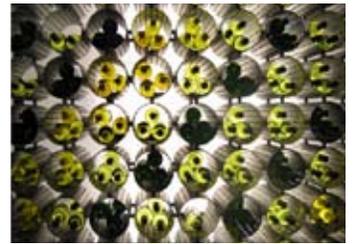


The Work: A Brief Overview

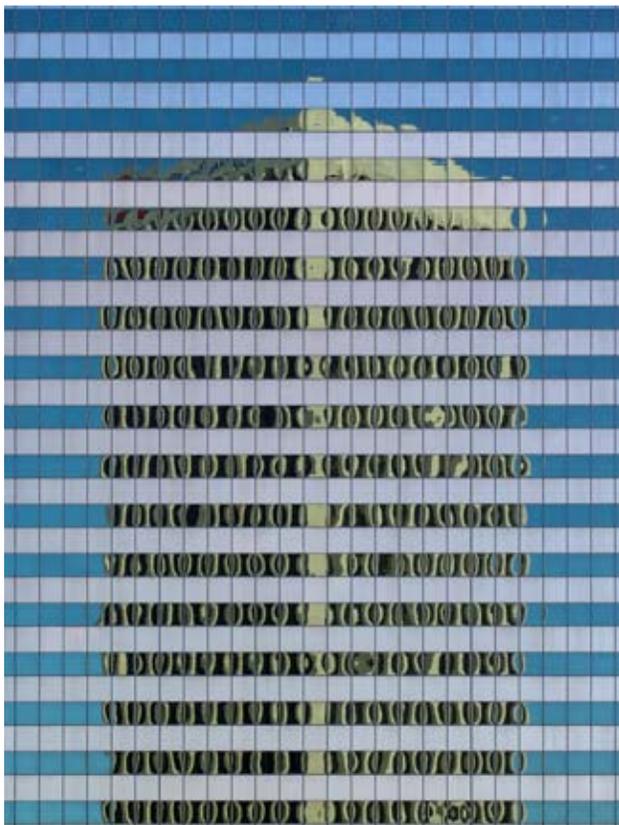
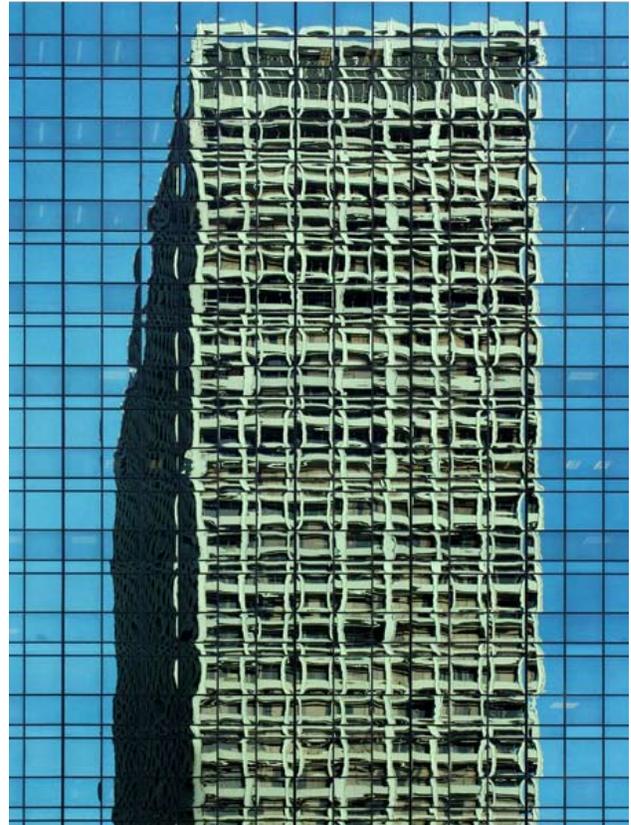


Contrary to initial perception, these are not paintings, but photographs. Better yet, with few and minor exceptions, *entirely untouched* photographs. DAK's painterly style is a culmination of technique, subject matter and presentation on gallery-wrapped canvases.

Along with his portfolio of *straight* photography, are DAK's Remixes. These pieces start with one or more photographs. Then, through digital manipulation—sometimes minimal, sometimes extensive—a new work of art is born.



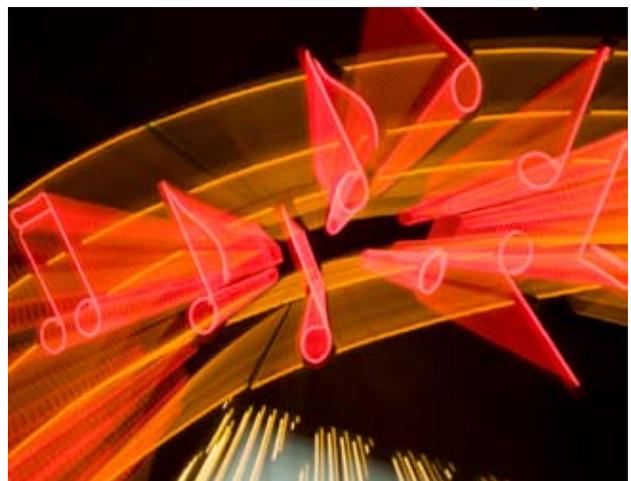
The Work: Samples from *Reflections on Architecture Series*



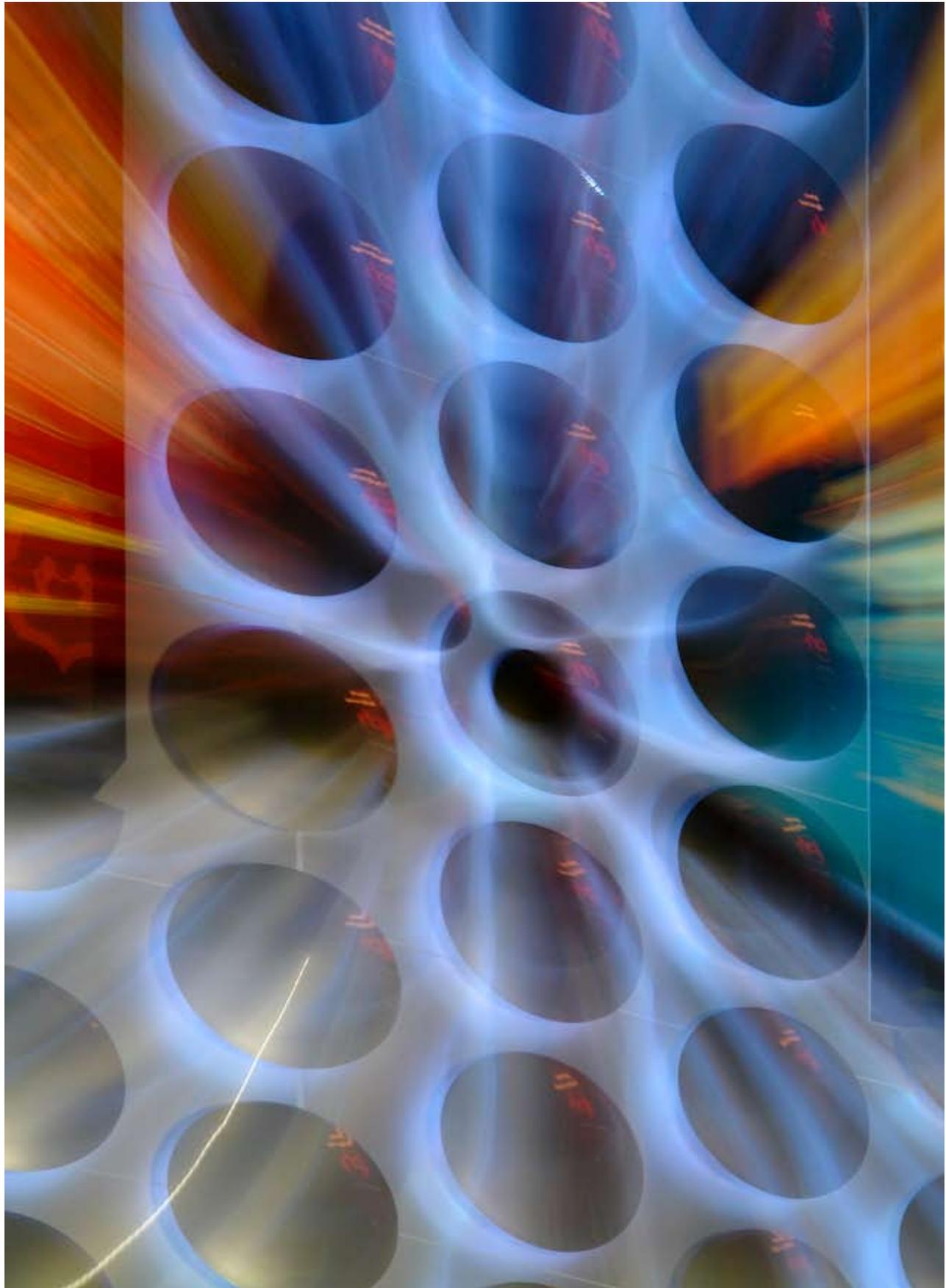
Reflections on Architecture #19



The Work: Samples from *Dynamic Lights Series*



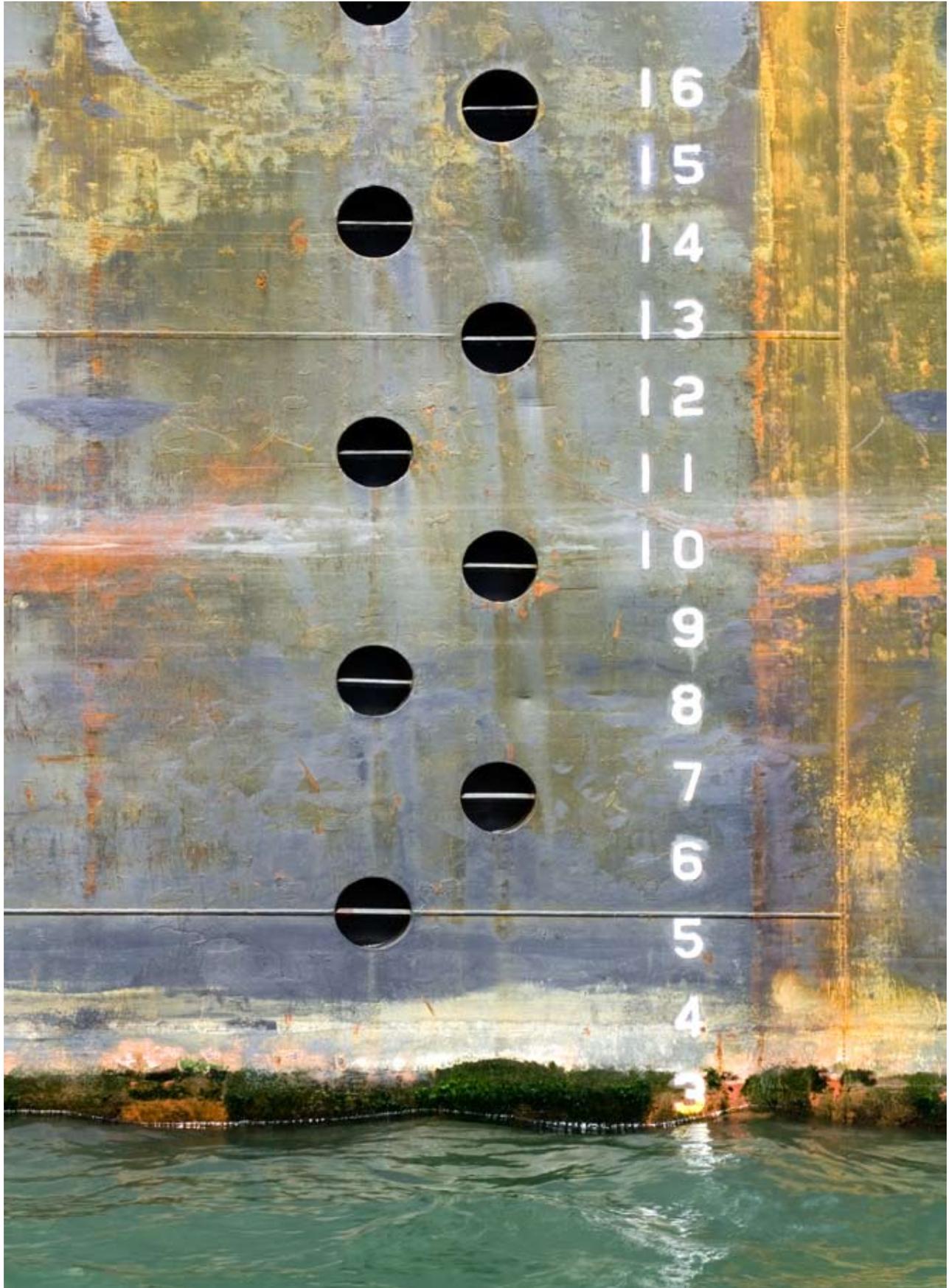
Dynamic Lights #8315



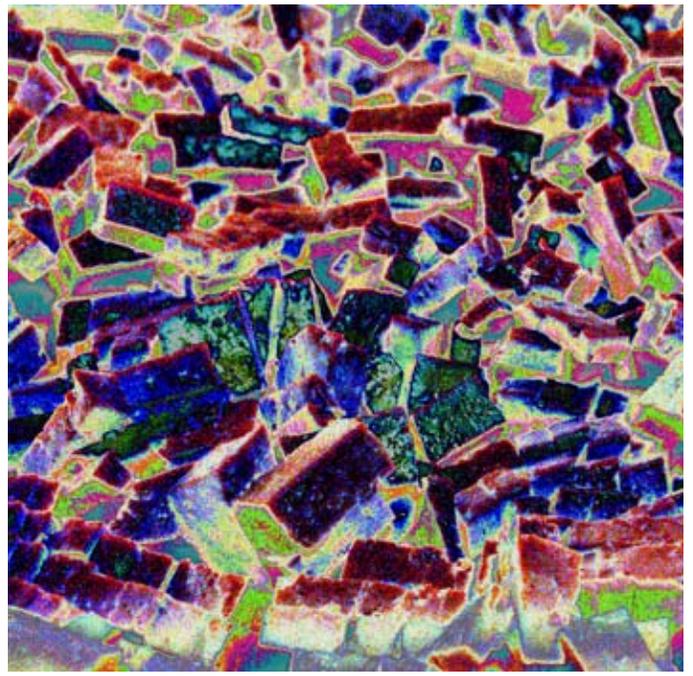
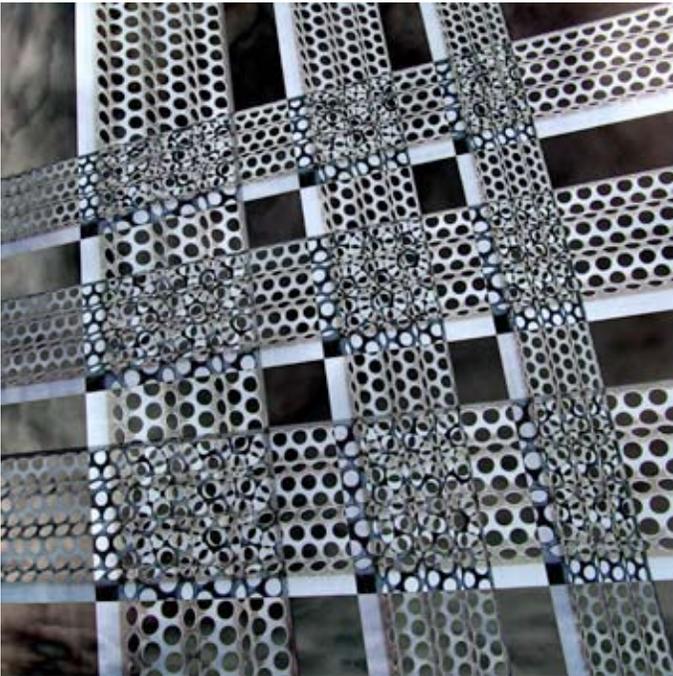
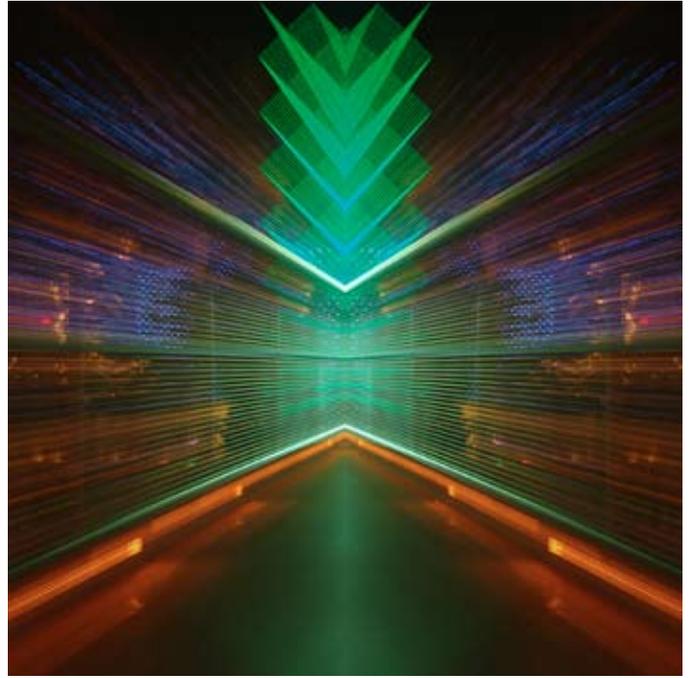
The Work: Samples from *Textures & Patterns Series*



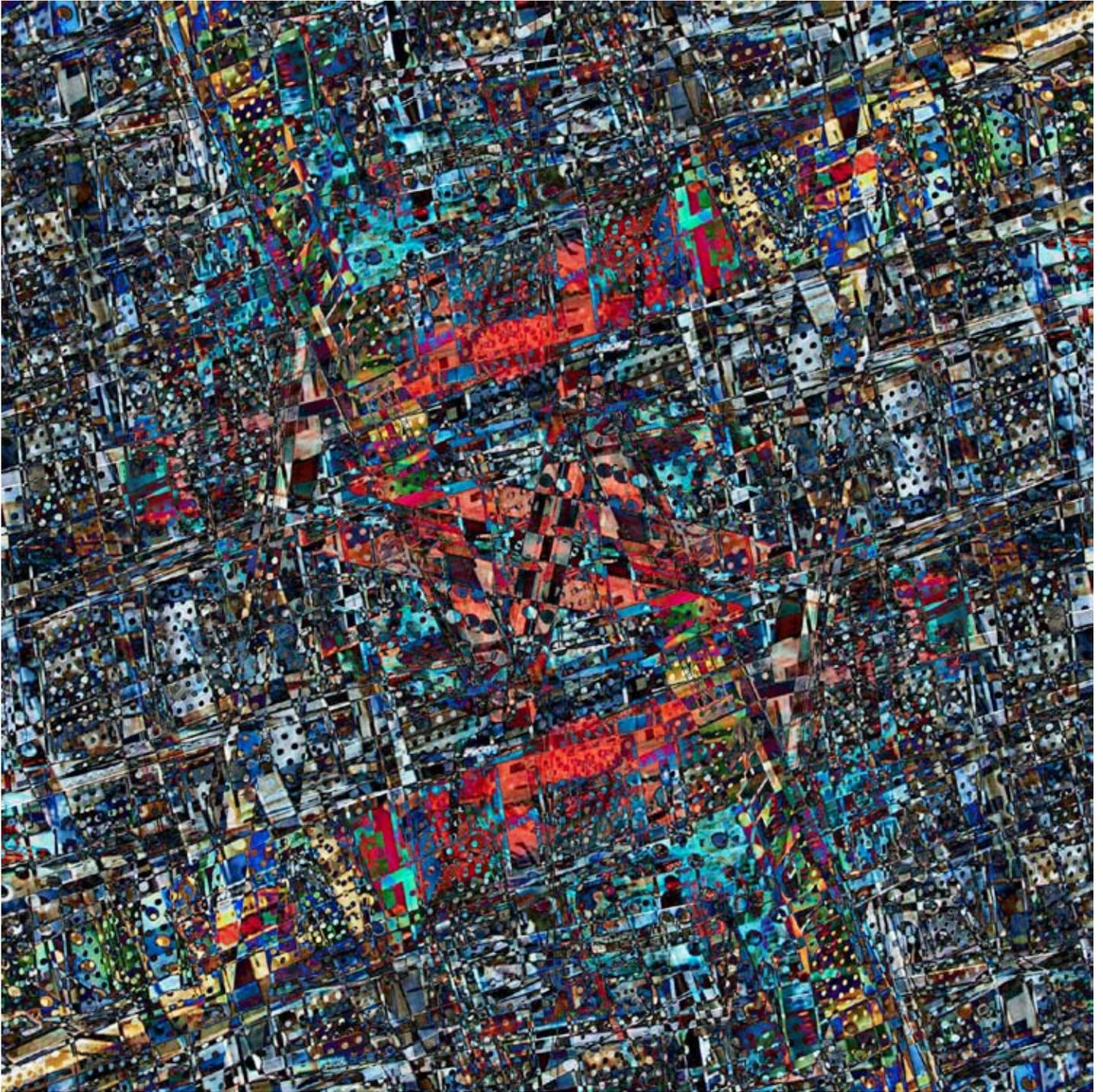
Countdown (Textures & Patterns Series)



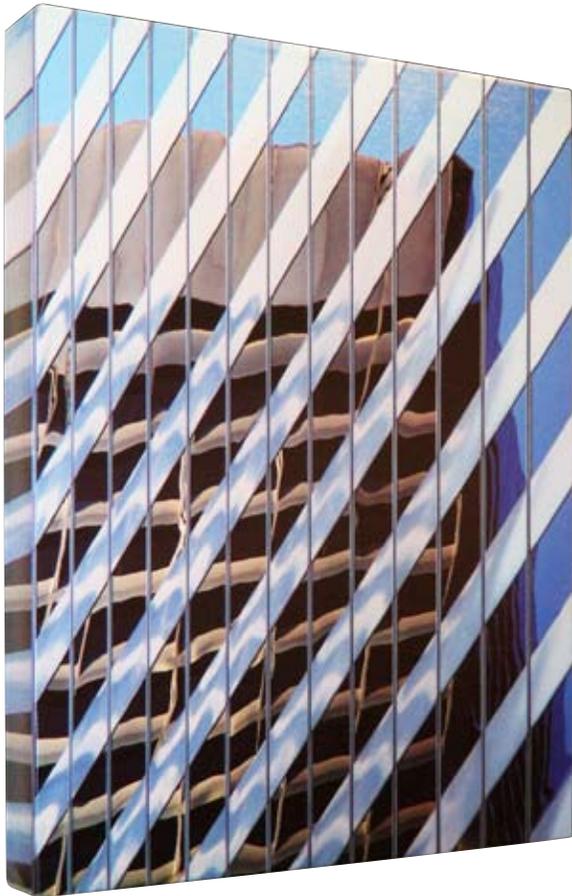
The Work: Sample *Remixes*



Complexity (Remix)



Products: Gallery-Wrapped Canvases



Reflections on Architecture #8
(18" x 24" x 1-1/2")

These high-end giclee prints are done with creativity and precision. DAK pulls from his years of experience using wide-format printers to craft each new work of art.

Beginning with the photograph (or remix), he designs the canvas by extruding the outer-most edges, in Adobe Photoshop, so that they will wrap all the way back and around the extra-deep stretcher bars. This gives the piece great depth, and makes it "pop" off the wall.

Using sophisticated RIP software, along with his Epson 9600 giclee printer with chromatic (pigmented) inks, the colors are accurate and permanent. The canvas he uses is one of several choice fine art varieties. Once the print has dried, it is coated with UV-protecting veneer. This refined process gives each piece a longevity of up to 200 years (according to industry authority, Wilhelm Imaging Research).

These photographic prints are so often confused for paintings, as DAK's style, as well as this method of presentation is so vibrant and textural.

Prints can
be made
up to
38" x 80"
(and larger, in
some cases)



Complexity (remix)
(36" x 36" x 1-1/2")



Products: Matted Prints



Parisian Blast (11" x 14")



Tracks #1 (11" x 14")

As some prefer their artwork to be matted & framed, we offer that too. Sizes include (but are not limited to):

- 5" x 7" prints in 8" x 10" mattes
- 8" x 10" prints in 11" x 14" mattes
- 11" x 14" prints in 16" x 20" mattes

The paper the photographs are printed on is hand-chosen by DAK. Currently, his favorites are *Moab Entrada Fine Art Chromata White* and *Hahnemühle Photo Rag*.

Like the canvases, they're printed on DAK's Epson 9600 giclee printer with chromatic (pigmented) inks for accuracy and longevity.

We use archival, acid-free 4-ply solid white mattes, or a more decorative double-matting.

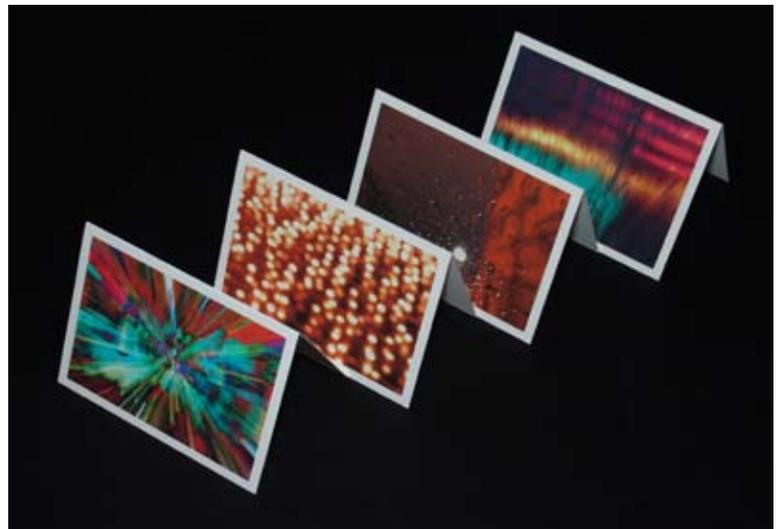
Unframed, each piece is individually wrapped in a crystal-clear bag, fit to size. Framing is also offered on any matted print, in a choice of either black or stained wood finish.

Cards

For the holiday season, we created a much-requested line of greeting cards, emphasizing lights and a color pallet that reflects the mood of the holidays.

In addition to these cards, we produce many more designs from various series, each having blank insides and accompanying envelopes of a high-quality stock.

Individual cards come in crystal-clear sleeves. Also available are 4-packs and 8-packs.



Holiday Series #1

Shows/Exhibitions

2008

SOLO

Village Tasting Room Long Beach, CA

"Digital Visions" Continental Gallery Los Angeles, CA

"Holiday Lights" Claudia Milan Boutique Venice Beach, CA

GROUP

"All Media 2008" Irvine Fine Arts Center Irvine, CA

"Create: Fixate" Los Angeles, CA

"CA Boom" (interior design expo) Santa Monica, CA

"LA: Then and Now" Dale Youngman Gallery Los Angeles, CA



"LA Visions" at LACMA

2007

SOLO

"Reflections on Architecture" Unitarian Church of Santa Monica Santa Monica, CA

Los Angeles Film Festival Westwood, CA

Medea Gallery San Pedro, CA

Synergy Café II Culver City, CA

"Taste"/Learn About Wine Beverly Hills, Hollywood and Los Angeles, CA

GROUP

"The Art of Burning Man" Dale Youngman Gallery Los Angeles, CA

"LA Visions" LACMA Art Rental & Sales Gallery Los Angeles CA

"Contemporary Crafts Market" Santa Monica, CA

Dansk Mobel Culver City, CA

2006

SOLO

Synergy Café Culver City, CA

"Flight"/Learn About Wine Hollywood, CA

John Darin Salon Beverly Hills, CA

GROUP

"Perspectives" Creative Galleries Los Angeles, CA

"Metroscapes" Art Murmur Gallery Los Angeles, CA

"MesArt Holiday Art Exhibition" The California Modern Art Gallery San Francisco, CA

"Our Own Artists" Unitarian Church of Santa Monica Santa Monica, CA

"Contemporary Crafts Market" Santa Monica, CA

"NoHo Arts Fest" North Hollywood, CA

"Bohemian Shindig" Los Angeles, CA

"FAB Market" Los Angeles, CA



"Digital Visions" at The Continental

2003

GROUP

Travel Photography Contest Winners Civic Auditorium Santa Monica, CA

Curriculum Vitae

Education

B.F.A.

Ramapo College of NJ 1993

Architectural/Graphic Design

School of Architecture, Penn State University 1987-89

Boston Architectural Center 1991

Study Abroad

Semester at Sea (University of Pittsburgh) 1990

Continued Studies

Bergen Community College (NJ),

UCLA Extensions,

Santa Monica College/

Academy of Entertainment Technology 1996-2000



The Portal (2005)

Employment

Desktop Publisher & Designer

5/94-pres

DAK Graphics (DAK's business)

Marina del Rey, CA (formerly in NYC area)

Presentation Specialist/Senior Studio Artist

7/97-7/05

Deutsch (advertising agency)

New York City & Marina del Rey, CA

Graphic Designer/Assistant Manager, Design Dept. 2/94-10/96

Ho Ho Art & Craft International Co.

New York City

Representation

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Art Rental & Sales Gallery

Los Angeles, CA (mid-Wilshire)

Creative Galleries

Los Angeles, CA (westside)

Medea Gallery

San Pedro, CA

Farmboy Fine Arts Inc.

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Products: In-Context



Products: In-Context



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 21, 2008

***“Digital Clouds”* Photographic Collage Laminated into Glass Handrail System Offers Aesthetic Experience**

Aston Marketing Group owners David MacMillan and Cindy Martin recently set out to make a unique statement in the renovation of their newly-acquired headquarters building in Torrance, Calif: a contemporary upscale, eye-arresting, semi-spiral staircase within the two-story atrium.

The owners commissioned fine art photographer David A. Knudsen to create and produce a handrail system consisting of 18 panels of custom-shaped curved glass. Laminated within the glass is a continuous photographic collage featuring imagery of clouds reflected off a modern skyscraper’s façade.

Knudsen was chosen to produce this functional art installation because of his renowned architecturally-themed photography, as well as his knowledge of structural design.

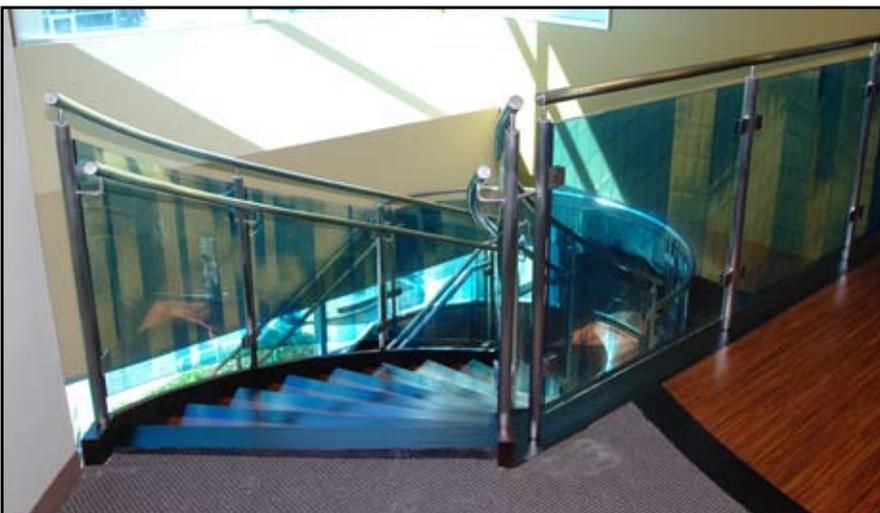
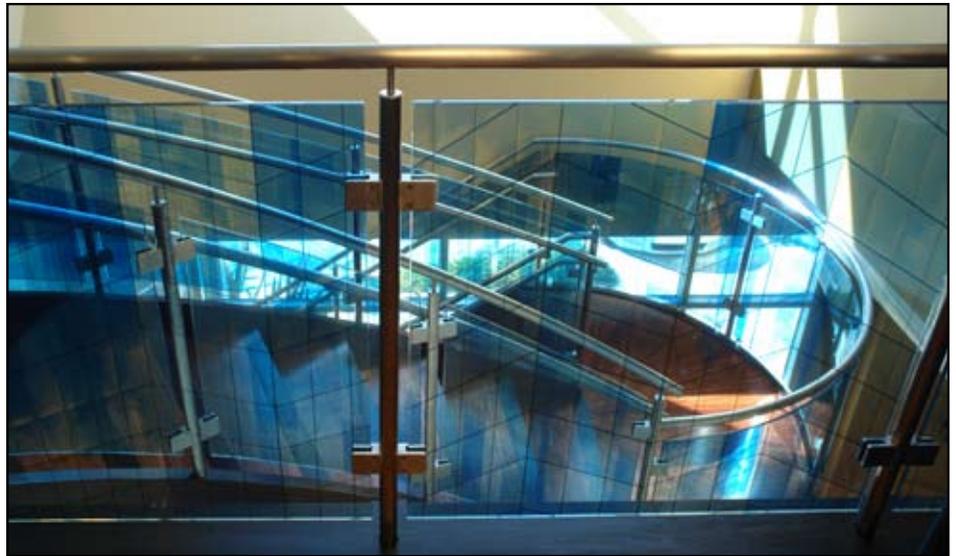
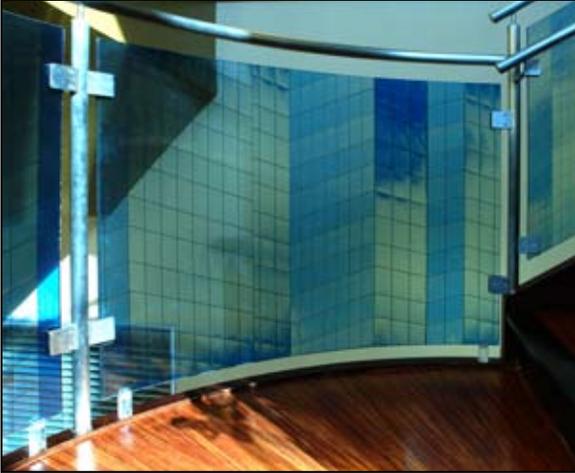
Online publication *In Focus*, in a recent article, quotes “David Knudsen is a photographic artist whose trademark imagery combines steel, glass and concrete with sky and clouds for an effect that juxtaposes the beauty of each.”

For more information, images and a link to the complete *In Focus* article, please visit www.dakshots.com/amg.

Digital Clouds

Glass Handrail System

Aston Marketing Group Headquarters,
Torrance, CA



dakshots

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Digital Clouds on Glass and Clear Polyester: a Staircase Showcase



David Knudsen is a photographic artist whose trademark work combines steel, glass, and concrete with sky and clouds for an effect that juxtaposes the beauty of each with photography. Knudsen took the concept of one his most well-known photographic series, Reflections on Architecture, and translated it to a staircase at the headquarters of Aston Marketing Group (AMG) in Torrance, Calif.

"I was delivering and hanging some new canvases we selected for the walls of their offices, and got to talking about the possibility of decorating their staircase with my artwork. The theme we came

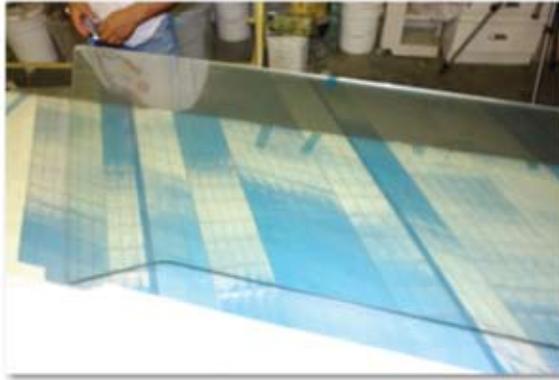
up with was Digital Clouds, where reflections of clouds are captured in the glass grids of modern skyscrapers. Incidentally, I only had a few photos in my library that fit the theme," explains Knudsen. "Furthermore, I was a bit challenged because the time of season here wasn't coinciding with getting good cloud shots, so I started researching weather patterns in other cities around the country that are also desirable for their architecture to capture such reflections."

Knudsen settled on Chicago and Dallas, traveling to each city to try and capture the perfect reflections. Though he says he picked up a lot of great shots to add to his portfolio, none of the thousands of shots satisfied the effect he was after.

"This was quite a learning experience. Throughout the process I discovered the formula I was looking for between the weather patterns, architecture, and photo angles, and that I needed all of these from one building so that it would have consistency. I found the perfect building in Oxnard, Calif.; a huge mirrored façade with very slim trim lines between the panes of glass, and took three or four trips up there. I shot another thousand pictures or so and got what I needed," says Knudsen.

Initially, Knudsen planned to purchase a cold lamination press, have the glass delivered to his studio, and laminate the prints to the glass with a clear adhesive. "Our consensus, ultimately, was that laminating glass with the film in between two panes of glass was the most permanent and sturdy way to





The prints are sandwiched between sheets of 100 percent transparent laminate, and then quarter-inch glass, respectively, on each side. There are a total of 18 panes of custom-bent glass for the semi-circular stairway, each with prints connecting one to another in a pattern Knudsen created.

Knudsen printed Digital Clouds with his Epson 9600 on LexJet Clear Polyester w/ Edge Strips for a translucent effect. With the Epson inks, this clear material takes some extra time to dry so Knudsen set up take-up reel that prevented the prints from touching the floor.

The prints were then brought to the glass factory to be positioned between the glass and laminate for installation. "I'm anxious to see it all come together and know for sure that all my mechanicals were correct and line up with each other. I haven't had much of an opportunity to see the prints in the very configuration in which they will be because they're large and delicate. I won't know until it's all there in glass and installed on the staircase," says Knudsen.

The project is being installed this week and an opening reception featuring Knudsen's work is expected to officially christen Digital Clouds next month.



David Knudsen

Publication: *Decor* magazine

showcase PHOTOGRAPHY

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Publication/Broadcast

Decor, November 2008

First Look LA (NBC television - primetime), September 11, 2008

Area of Design (online), July 2008 & November 2008

Random Lengths (Long Beach, CA), August 2008

InFocus (online), August 2008

River of Suns cd cover, 2008

Lexus television ad, 2008

Barclay Bank television ad, 2008

The Architect's Newspaper (West Coast Edition), June 2006

Collections (abbreviated list)

Ray Charles Jr. (Los Angeles, CA)

Carlyle Galaxy Wilshire L.P. (Beverly Hills, CA)

1st Enterprise Bank (Los Angeles, CA)

Aston Marketing Group (Torrance, CA)

Finn & Porter restaurant, Hilton hotel (Austin, TX)

People Support (Century City, CA)

Charlene Langland (Inglewood, CA)

Merlone Geier Partners, L.P. (San Diego, CA)

Matt Rosen (Hollywood, CA)

Business.com (Santa Monica, CA)

Mike Dunfee (Long Beach, CA)

Boyd Willat (Hollywood, CA)

David Kimball (Los Angeles, CA)

Peter Lebenzon (Long Beach, CA)

Greg & Karen Schemerhorn (Redondo Beach, CA)

Donald Battjes (Los Angeles, CA)

Greg Guel (Los Angeles, CA)

James Adams (Los Angeles, CA)

The Lomas Santa Fe Group (Beverly Hills, CA)

Silver Point Capital (Los Angeles, CA)

Lani Fauvere (Los Angeles, CA)

Shabani & Shabani LLP (Century City, CA)

Café Buna (Marina del Rey, CA)

Soluzioni (Beverly Hills, CA)

Vincent Picardi (Santa Monica, CA)

Gail Zone (Los Angeles, CA)

Fernando Gonzales (Culver City, CA)

Awards

International Photography Awards (2007)— 5 Honorable Mentions

Travel Photography Contest (2003)

