

Marc Yankus, 57

NEW YORK CITY

"I walk around New York City and certain buildings just pop out. It's as if buildings have different personalities, and for some reason—I don't know why—certain ones speak to me and become projections, making everything around them fade away. It's almost like experiencing anesthesia. The building comes alive. I feel the building, its bricks and its edges, even though I'm not touching it—it could be a block away. After I shoot it, I open up the image with software on the computer, and I play with it and reshape it, sort of like silly putty. I create a fine line between fiction and documentation.

I grew up in New York City and went to the High School of Art and Design, where I studied photography. Then, at college, I got a BFA and studied painting, drawing, and illustration. In my early years, I was inspired by photographers like Robert Frank and Paul Strand. In the '80s I lived in Soho and was inspired by the painter Francesco Clemente, who I met on an airplane in India in February this year. I sat behind him and didn't realize who he was until we started talking. I also love the painter Eric Fischl. Both artists have nothing to do with architecture. I don't really see myself as an architectural photographer—it just happens to be the subject, the element, that I'm working with right now. I'm more interested in surrealism and creating an unreal world."



