

The hustle and bustle of New York City captured perfectly in a series of stunning images closer to mini-movies than single frame photographs

By DAVID MCCORMACK

PUBLISHED: 06:17 GMT, 6 January 2013 | UPDATED: 14:54 GMT, 7 January 2013

This astonishing series of photographs more closely resembles a collection of mini-movies that encapsulate the hectic nature of modern cities - including New York, London and Paris - in a way that few single frame images can ever hope to do.

They are the work of Montreal-born photographer Nicolas Ruel who has developed a signature style which involves moving his camera slightly over the course of a single eight second-long single exposure.

Ruel has found that this technique creates intriguing single frame photographs comprised of eight different images layered on top of each other.



One of Ruel's favorite subjects is New York and in this photo of Central Park he encapsulates a Summer's day in the park



© Nicholas Ruel

Time Square, New York: Montreal-born Nicolas Ruel achieves his layered chaotic effect by crunching his camera's aperture down to a minuscule F-512



© Nicholas Ruel

Meatpacking District, New York: Ruel moves his camera slightly over the course of a single eight second long exposure to create a visually dense one frame story

This layered effect gives his work a chaotic and dynamic edge which is perfect for conveying the experience of living in a large city surrounded by hustle and bustle.

It was while studying film and international relations and traveling the world that Ruel found his true calling and developed his unusual technique.

His visually dense one frame style helps to capture the distinct feel and energy of each of the evocative cities he has explored including New York, London, Paris, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing and Sydney, in both day and night time settings.

Using his signature medium, stainless steel, on which to print his large scale works, Nicolas Ruel has received much acclaim, for his unique approach to photography.

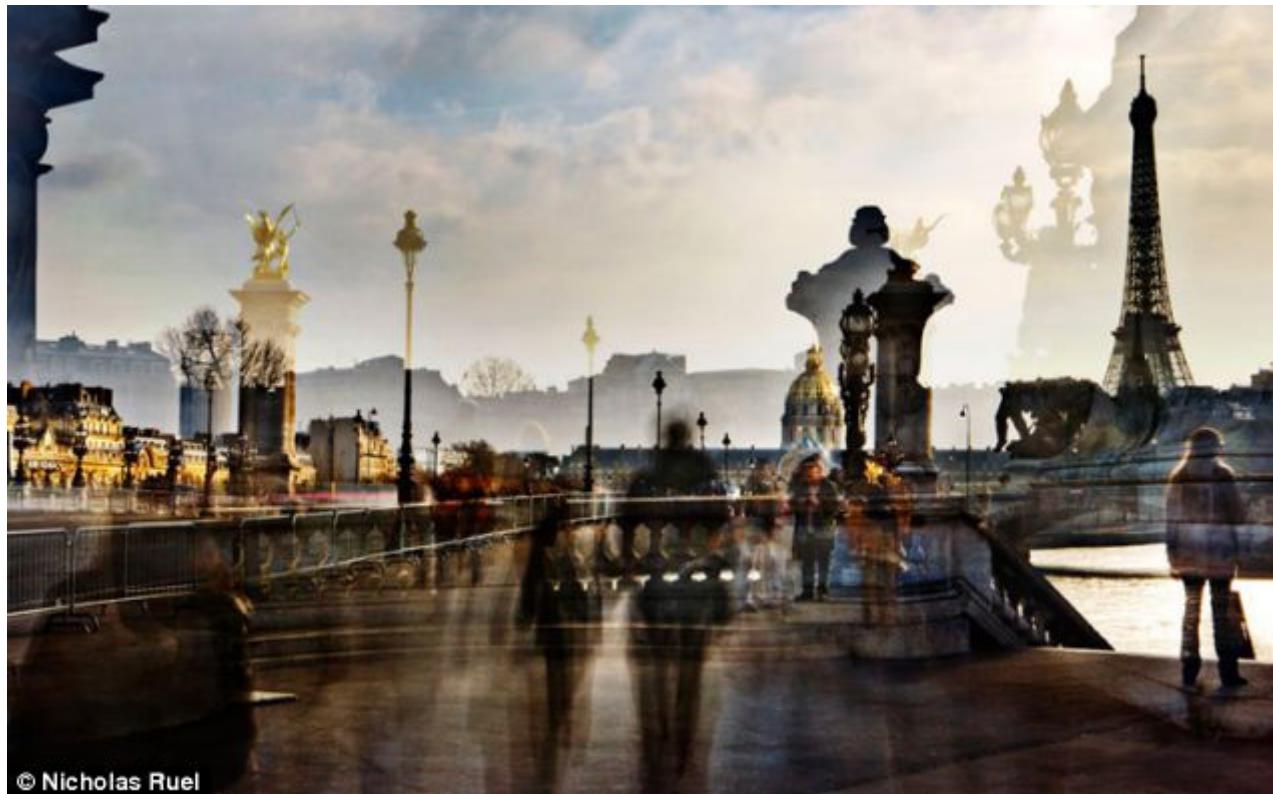
On his website he writes about his work: 'I take a formal approach to photography, based on urban design and architecture. Structuring and disarticulating these elements is the predominant theme of my work.'

'I am fascinated by transitory and transitional sites - places that in their nature and function incarnate motion and metamorphosis, such as ports, terminals, docks, highways, construction sites, churches, and stadiums.'

'For a number of years I have been using very long exposures that function like a movie set, condensing each photograph into a kind of eight-second micromovie.'

'This long exposure makes it possible to assemble key moments in a single take, analogous to the process of condensation in dreams. Thus, in this dolly shot, I translate the actions and spectacle of the city and its residents as I follow their unceasing movement.'

Ruel has now photographed 50 different cities. The '8 Seconds' project began in 2007 and will continue through 2015. His next solo exhibition will be at Thompson Landry Gallery in Toronto, Ontario from March 21 to April 15, 2013.



Paris: Nicolas Ruel has received much acclaim for his work which he prints on stainless steel