

# What is MULTIPLE X Photography?

by Bruce David McFarland

MULTIPLE X began by accident. I was shooting in downtown Los Angeles, and like many photographers, I bracket my shots, usually 2 f-stops above and below what the camera says is the proper exposure. The purpose is so that later, in Photoshop, I can align and merge the five images to create a perfect image that includes detail in the highlights and the shadows. After setting the controls properly to align and merge the images (I THOUGHT), I was surprised to see the image that popped up. I ended up with a strangely unaligned image with multiple airplanes and light posts. The image was wrong, but very interesting, and no longer static. I seemed to capture both the beauty and the energy of the place.



“Chinatown Mass Transit”

I deconstructed my align-and-merge error in “Chinatown Mass Transit” and isolated the three distinct errors that caused the happy accident. Now, I was ready to see if I could use that technique to create additional images that could capture both the beauty and energy of an iconic location.



Disney Hall is said to be the most photographed building in Los Angeles, and it's no wonder, it is visually spectacular. But it's also a place to visit and hear great music. There is an energy of anticipation as people go into the concert hall, and usually a feeling of satisfaction when they leave. At least that's what I feel every time I attend. There's also a thrill just walking around the building. People love taking pictures of themselves and their loved ones with Disney Hall in the background. I tried to capture that energy in my “Walt Disney Concert Hall Multiple. I was inspired by the combination of the Hall, music played by gifted musicians and the people enjoying it with me.

My MULTIPLE X images are not true multiple exposures. I use my original mistaken Photoshop settings, combined with other innovative techniques to create original images in my computer.

Knowing what is likely to happen with my process, I also now take pictures that are more likely to develop into something special in the computer.

New York is awash in famous spaces. I've captured several them; Chelsea Market, Grand Central Terminal, the Flat Iron Building, and the Brooklyn Bridge. When I shot these spaces, I would take 50, 75, or more unique images, always looking for people doing interesting things. Back in the studio I sort through the images and select images that I think might merge to an interesting composition. I combine 5, 7, or 9 images at a time to see what happens. It usually takes between 3 and 10 attempts before I get a satisfactory composition that captures my vision, sometimes never. Of all the locations I've shot with the idea of MULTIPLE X, I've been successful with less than half of them.



[Click here](#) to go to my website and see all the images.

24307 Magic Mountain Parkway – Suite 330 – Santa Clarita CA 91355

661-297-1999 Bruce@BruceArtPhoto.com

[www.ARTISTICINTERVENTION.COM](http://www.ARTISTICINTERVENTION.COM)