

*MASSIMO COLONNA
from SCANDIANO, ITALY
makes vibrant stone buildings
the protagonist of his work—
that, and flocks of birds flying
in puzzling formations.*

Massimo Colonna's surrealist works are influenced by both his upbringing in the mountainous province of Reggio Emilia in Italy and his early love of photography. Before he branched out into 3D, Colonna worked in post-production and retouching in a photography studio. His work is inspired by contemporary Italian photographers Luigi Ghirri and Franco Fontana, known for their blurring of fiction and reality and their abstract color landscapes.

In his own playful renders, Colonna captures imagined scenes from urban and suburban life, but with a twist or detail pushing them into the extraordinary. "From a compositional point of view, architecture plays a big role in my images," he says. "Architecture is often a co-protagonist together

with the subject." Architectural follies grace nearly all of his scenes, which are sometimes focused around a thematic idea. In his series *Migration*, for example, a flock of birds amasses in unusual geometries, announcing a seasonal or paradigmatic shift. Another series, *Apathy*, relies on local views of post-industrial landscapes that bring out the absurd in the everyday, with a potent sense of indifference.

In 2019, Colonna collaborated with design retail platform the Cool Hunter and with studios MUT Design and Six N. Five. His commercial commissions have a similar aesthetic to his personal works, many of which play with open-air architecture. Colonna's images open viewers up to the unseen, through his use of artful perspectives and trompe l'oeil techniques. ✦

