

Alastair Philip Wiper – Artist Statement

I am a photographer whose work concentrates on the subjects of science, industry, and architecture and how these topics affect our society.

I see the machines, buildings and infrastructures surrounding us as symbols of humans' needs and desires, dreams and questions about the universe.

The human brain creates infrastructures and machines that facilitate acts of great kindness and cruelty, provide for other humans, and try to answer questions about the meaning of life. The technology and systems that smash the atoms together, stuff the sausages and build the aeroplanes are complex structures that stand as a testament to human imagination.

My artistic practice goes behind the scenes to look closely at these machines, systems and infrastructures worldwide, which are rarely seen or documented.

As well as documenting these spaces, I aim to convey a sense of wonder through my work and highlight the eccentric, often humorous solutions that humans devise. I want the viewer to be given only enough information to form a vague idea of what is going on in my images and have the gaps filled out by their own imagination, bringing to life childhood fantasies, books they have read and films they have seen.

The subjects of my work embrace art, science, politics, architecture, the environment and social culture. The general public has never been more aware of what they consume, where it comes from, and the potential impact on the environment of their consumption. A constant stream of information and misinformation about the rights and wrongs of science and industry is fed to the world, pitting local against global, big against small, new against old, and things are not always as they seem. My work takes an alternative look at various symbols of progress and consumption and questions what people view as good or bad, necessary or unnecessary, progressive or regressive.