



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Honolulu, HI (exterior)

2015

Archival pigment ink print

31" x 42.5"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: August 21, 1959; Built: November 10, 1965 – March 15, 1969; Architect: Belt, Lemmon & Lo and John Carl Warnecke & Associates

“When I first saw the Hawaii Capitol, the building didn’t seem all that interesting. That impression changed dramatically as I walked closer — the visual symbolism became more dramatically apparent. The eight columns along the front and the back stand in a large pool, representing the eight major islands of Hawaii surrounded by the Pacific. Those columns spread out into a stylized version of Royal Palm trees. Also visible is a bit of the volcano shaped outer wall of one of the chambers. I like the drama that the night sky adds.”

— Robert Lisak





David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Richmond, VA (interior)

2015

Archival pigment ink print

20" x 19"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: June 25, 1788; Built: 1785 – 1788; Architect: Thomas Jefferson and Charles-Louis Clérisseau

“This view emphasizes the intricately textured dome and the light that filters down from it, illuminating the portraits as well as the space below, just visible through the railing. The multiple textures, particularly the diagonally checkered tiled floor, lead one’s eye throughout the image and down the hallway at the right into an adjoining space.” — David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Saint Paul, MN (exterior)

2017

Archival pigment ink print

22" x 28"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: May 11, 1858; Built: 1905; Architect: Cass Gilbert

"I really enjoy night photography. Artificial light, on subjects we're accustomed to seeing in natural light, creates mystery and drama like we might see on a stage set. Here, it transformed a mundane wall into an object worth viewing." —David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Indianapolis, IN

2013

Archival pigment ink print

25" x 19"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: December 11, 1816; Built: 1878 – 1888; Architect: Edwin May and Adolph Scherrer

“I was struck by the juxtaposition of this elegant, quietly lit bust, placed in a formal and grand niche, but residing between a somewhat out-of-place wooden bench and a temporary coat hanger. This illustrates for me the dual role of state houses as both museums and ordinary work places.” — David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Columbus, OH

2015

Archival pigment ink print

22" x 28"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: March 1, 1803; Built: 1839 – 1861; Architect: Nathan Kelley and Isaiah Rogers.

“I visited this building and this space in particular on several occasions. The dramatic light and strong symmetry always appealed to me. I used a shifting lens and created the picture with a bottom half and a top half and stitched them together afterwards. This enabled me to get a perspective that rendered the space closer to how I saw it, as opposed to having used a wide angle lens alone.” — David Ottenstein



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Oklahoma City, OK

2014

Archival pigment ink print

28" x 17.5"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: November 16, 1907;
Built: 1917; Architect: Solomon
Andrew Layton

“Atop the Oklahoma Capitol is a 22 foot tall statue called ‘The Guardian,’ by Native American artist Enoch Kelly Haney. This smaller but still larger than life version stands at the head of a staircase leading into the rotunda. It is an arresting experience to encounter it, and one cannot help but contemplate Oklahoma’s particular relationship with Native Americans.” — Robert Lisak



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Richmond, VA (exterior)

2015

Archival pigment ink print

31" x 37"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: June 25, 1788; Built: 1785 – 1788; Architect: Thomas Jefferson and Charles-Louis Clérisseau

“The temptation when photographing neoclassical structures like this, especially when they are situated so nicely in their surrounding landscape, is to back away and use the obvious frontal view. My challenge here was to find an entirely different way to present this building. Balancing the dark window at left with the sunlit, brilliant white facade at right, while looking through the massive columns in the foreground provided a solution.”

— David Ottenstein



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Hartford, CT (Linc)

2020

Archival pigment ink print

63" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: January 9, 1788; Built: 1872
– 1878; Architect: Richard M. Upjohn
and James G. Batterson

“This image of Lincoln is in a large, lovely hall on the north side of the building. In the context of this space, the portrait is quite small, but riveting nonetheless.

The elegant simplicity of the placement seems just right in the midst of the colorful, ornate hall. It was only after I printed the photograph, that I read the small print on the plaque, stating that the portrait was a gift to the people of Connecticut from a holocaust survivor.”
— Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Topeka, KS

2014

Archival pigment ink print

22" x 28"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: January 29, 1861; Built: 1866 – 1907; Architect: E. Townsend Mix

“This 1930s mural of John Brown and the boiling passions of the civil war is quite a contrast with the quiet elegance of the hallway in the beautifully restored Kansas Capitol. The velvet rope reminds us to help preserve the art and adds a compositional element to the whole.”

— Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Honolulu, HI (interior)

2015

Archival pigment ink print

22" x 28"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: August 21, 1959; Built: November 10, 1965 – March 15, 1969; Architect: Belt, Lemmon & Lo and John Carl Warnecke & Associates

“In this view of the Hawaii Senate Chamber, I try to give a sense of the conical shape of the room. The two chambers are in that shape in order to represent the volcanos that formed the archipelago. I wanted to convey the simple, fully integrated relationship of the podium, senators’ desks and the public gallery. The woven backdrop and the chandelier, made from nautilus shells, add to the cultural context.” — Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Little Rock, AR

2016

Archival pigment ink print

42.5 x 31”

Edition 1/10

Statehood: June 15, 1836; Built: November 27, 1900 – January 1, 1915; Architect: George R. Mann

“This memorial to the nine children who first desegregated Little Rock schools is quite moving. I walked around taking various pictures, but it was the last view I took, with the children heading directly toward the seat of power that tells the story best, I think.” - Robert Lisak



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Saint Paul, MN (interior)

2017

Archival pigment ink print

28" x 22"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: May 11, 1858; Built: 1905; Architect: Cass Gilbert

"I chose to compose this image symmetrically and perfectly on axis with the room in keeping with the formal, classical architecture. The sweep of the velvet rope and the opposing multi-layered arches above the podium strengthen the composition and direct one's eye to the portrait of Lincoln and the statuary and inscriptions above." — David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Trenton, NJ

2017

Archival pigment ink print

22" x 28"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: December 18, 1787; Built: 1792 – 1911; Architect: Jonathan Doane (1792); John Notman (1845); Samuel Sloan (1871) and Lewis Broome (1889)

“The rich colors, woodwork and details of the General Assembly were my starting point for this photograph. The beautiful light - glowing through the windows, emanating from the chandelier and sunlight striking a portion of the desks and seating - became the true subject.”

— David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Des Moines, IA

2014 / Archival pigment ink print

31" x 42.5"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: December 28, 1846; Built: 1871 – 1886; Architect: Alfred H. Piquenard, John C. Cochrane

“The Law Library is such a dazzling and impressive space that it appeared obvious, at first, how I wanted to photograph it. However, it took an enormous amount of cajoling and persuading to obtain the necessary permission to get to where I wanted to be for this elevated vantage point.”

— David Ottenstein



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Juneau, AK

2016

Archival pigment ink print

31" x 37"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: January 3, 1959; Built: September 18, 1929 – February 21, 1931; Architect:
James Wetmore

“The raking light of the northern latitude, the mountain painting, the stately flags, and the WWII era pilots lend quite a backdrop to this finance committee room. The neatly, if precariously, stacked papers and the waiting paper cups, testify that there is more mundane work to be done.” — Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Lansing, MI

2014

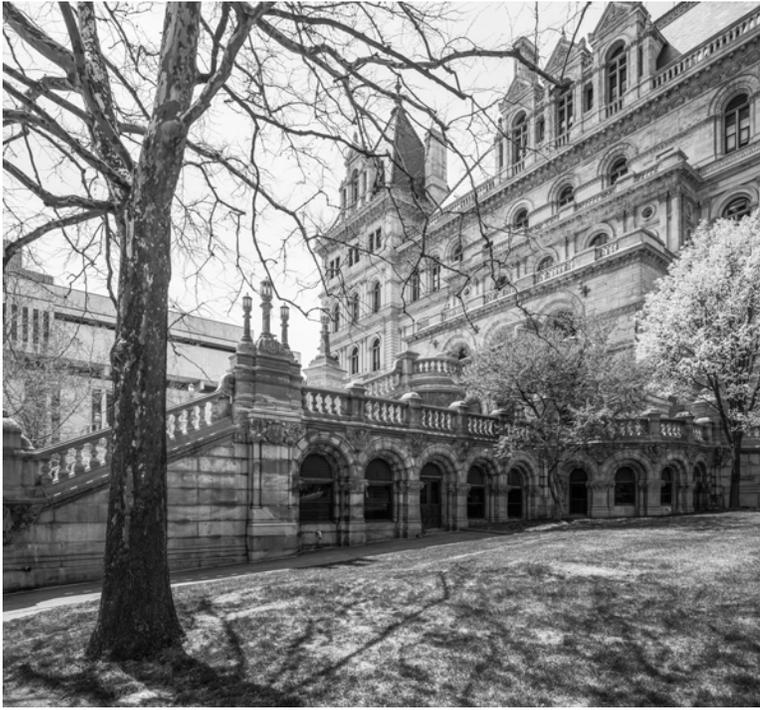
Archival pigment ink print

37" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: January 26, 1937; Built: 1873 – 1878; Architect: Elijah E. Myers

“How does one represent the three dimensional cylindrical space of a rotunda within the two dimensional confines of a photograph? The outstretched arms of the railings pull us in toward the stacked entrances to the hallways. There is a progression of light from the more subdued glass bricks of the lower level to the brighter outside light in the upper level. And we certainly know what time it is....” — Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Albany, NY

2014

Archival pigment ink print

20" x 19"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: July 26, 1788; Built: 1867 – 1899; Architect: Thomas Fuller Leopold Eidlitz, Henry Hobson Richardson, Isaac G. Perry

“The beautiful late 19th century structure in Albany is striking, if a bit cool when seen head on from a distance. This closer, more oblique angle, with the very early Spring foliage, makes for a more complex, warmer image. The strong diagonals of the stair rail and the roof line add to the visual energy.” — Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Boston, MA

2014 / Archival pigment ink print

25" x 19"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: February 6, 1788; Built: 1795 – 1798; Architect: Charles Bulfinch, Charles Brigham Sturgis, Bryant, Chapman & Andrews

“The strong quadrant structure of this vertical image helps make a static view of the chamber more vibrant. It also places John Winthrop, who called the new colony ‘A city upon a hill’ that would be an example to the old world, above the desks of the legislators engaged in trying to live up to such an ideal.” — Robert Lisak



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Madison, WI

2015 / Archival pigment ink print

42.5" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: May 29, 1848; Built: 1906 – 1917; Architect: George B. Post

“I wanted to convey the enormity and grandeur of the central space of this capitol. The view spans four stories vertically with a hint of a fifth floor below. The placement of the ornate lamppost immediately in front of the camera helps emphasize the large volume of space.”

— David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Montgomery, AL

2014 / Archival pigment ink print

42.5" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: December 14, 1819; Built: 1850 – 1851; Architect: Barachias Holt, Frank Lockwood, in consultation with Charles Follen McKim of McKim, Mead & White

“Designed and built in 1851 by Horace King, freed from slavery five years earlier, this stunning cantilevered staircase was the perfect match for the southern elegance of the exterior of Alabama’s state house. I photographed it looking up, down and from various angles - there seemed to be no wrong way to capture it.” — David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Salt Lake City, UT

2018 / Archival pigment ink print

42.5" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: January 4, 1896; Built: December 26, 1912 – October 9, 1916; Architect: Richard K. A. Kletting

“I wanted to compose an image of a traditionally configured capitol structure in a way different from previous photographs I’d made. My solution here was to include a distant view, looking toward the far end of the building, with lots of immediate foreground. By also looking through and above the marble stair rail, I was able to include the skylit barrel vaulted ceiling which further enhanced the sense of space.” — David Ottenstein



David Ottenstein (b. 1960)

Cheyenne, WY

2013

Archival pigment ink print

31" x 37"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: July 10, 1890; Built: 1886 – 1890; Architect: David W. Gibbs and William DuBois

“I was fascinated by the oversized bust of Lincoln that dominated this wide corridor. The Wyoming Capitol was a fairly modest one, lacking extensive photographic opportunities. The rich woodwork and graphically distinctive marble floor presented a strong setting for this evocative sculpture.” — David Ottenstein



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Carson City, NV

2014

Archival pigment ink print

28" x 22"

Edition 1/20

Statehood: October 31, 1864; Built: 1871; Architect: Joseph Gosling

“The Nevada Capitol is a very modest building in which the governor has his offices. The legislature has been in a nearby modern office building since 1971. This photograph shows the original legislative chamber. It’s elegant, classical simplicity embodies the serious, even lofty, aspiration in the idea of American government. The bold, direct, N and the slightly fading blue fabric are beautiful in their own right.” — Robert Lisak



Robert Lisak (b. 1954)

Hartford, CT (Leg)

2020 / Archival pigment ink print

42.5" x 31"

Edition 1/10

Statehood: January 9, 1788; Built: 1872 – 1878; Architect: Richard M. Upjohn and James G. Batterson

“I had been photographing the facade of the Capitol on a crystal clear winter’s day, when I went into the Legislative Office Building to see what might be of interest there. When I went to the top level, thinking about the possibility of photographing down into the large atrium, this view presented itself! The right time of day, the right time of year, the right kind of light! The strong contrast of the red, gold and blue adds to the light and structure within the image.” — Robert Lisak