The exhibition “Standing on the Edge of Time” is on display at the Horizon shopping center throughout May. The exhibition, which was unveiled on April 27, showcases photographic works by 25-year-old Briton, Matt Neale.

**Rooftop photos**

Growing up in Wales in the U.K., Neale came to Wuhan to teach English at Pengliuyang High School two years ago. Newport, his hometown, is a quiet place, and Neale was inspired by the contrast between the hustle and bustle of Wuhan and his slow-paced home life. This experience has given him the inspiration for capturing unique images of the city he is living in, and photography has become his second career.

Our reporter met up with Neale at Moshan Cherry Blossom Garden. “I learnt about this place on WeChat,” he said. Even with limited Chinese, he is interested to follow the new changes happening around the city, while constantly being on the lookout for new photo opportunities and locations.

People can easily recognize Neale’s works by the unique angles he chooses. Most of his series of works give the impression of a scientific fiction movie, with the great bridges and flyovers turning into “time tunnels.” In order to find shooting locations for a bird’s eye view, Neale spends all his spare time walking around the streets, or if he spots an interesting location from the bus, he would get off and walk back to take a closer look, and then mark the area on his phone app.

In order to shoot his signatures, a series of selfies with the Yellow Crane Tower, Neale climbed up to the rooftop of an old building near Yuemachang, and spent the whole evening there shooting. By using different angles, the photos look like he was dancing around the top of the city’s landmark. Neale said that before he climbed to the rooftops of these buildings, sometimes he would wait outside for hours in order to “sneak in” by following a resident.

Neale bought his first drone last year, and finds it a much more convenient way of taking aerial photos. He chose a Chinese brand drone, Dji, which he described as reliable and cost effective.

**Tricks of hi-tech-looking photos**

Carrying a camera and capturing unique images of Wuhan became a daily routine, and so far he has shot over 5,000 photos.

The 29 photographs on exhibit include images of Wuhan landmarks, such as the Yellow Crane Tower, the Yangtze River Bridge, and Tortoise Hill. His lens has also captured more mundane subjects such as grocery stores and gas stations in Wuhan.

Many netizens are enthralled by Neale’s photos, which capture diverse elements of Wuhan in flying light beams, magnificent neon lights, tranquil lakes, old houses by the river, and the tone of his photos depicting the city as cool and modern.

The modern feel of his work owes to proper composition: Neale tends to look for natural frames, such as an arch or the crossing of roads, to present the beautiful geometric forms of architectures, then he adds foreground and background elements beyond the main subject to create more layers and highlight the main subject. In addition to the way he arranges elements in the photo, they are retouched to make them look more fashionable. He prefers to create sharp images, creating impact by using a cool–tone filter and high color saturation.

One photo on display shows a taxi driver hustling through a tunnel. “The car was actually stationary, so I used special effects to make it look like the car was moving.” Neale told the reporter some of the tricks for photo retouching, and said that it took three or more hours to go from the original shot to final image.

**Recording ordinary lives**

It was from Neale’s pictures that many people sensed the dramatic stretching forces of Wuhan. He said that he will continue focusing on Wuhan in 2018 but then wants to move on to a new challenge. Neale plans to document the daily lives of ordinary people rather than photographing the dynamic sides of the city. As he strolled along lanes in Wuchang, he felt the breath of the local’s lives, and it gave him the inspiration for creation. The story of shopkeepers, cobblers, and residents of the old town has given him a new perspective. Invited by Wuchang District, a gallery will exhibit these works this summer.