

Giclée Prepress
The Art of Giclée

Theory and Practice of Giclée Printing

By Douglas Mesney

Première Edition

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*This book is
for those
who step
into the dark
to find light.*

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Giclée Prepress

The Art of Giclée

Theory and Practice of Giclée Printing

Forward

THE ZEN OF GICLÉE

*“Blue is gray and yellow white
And we decide which is Right
And which is an Illusion”*

Those words from a *Moody Blues* song have stuck with me since I first listened to them four decades ago.



Is the world an illusion? We are what we think, after all, but what you think is not what I think. Or, is it?

We all ponder metaphysical questions like those. The answers are elusive and the quest is the stuff of Zen.

Zen is a personal experience, something that cannot be shared because it is a journey within. When we are alone with our thoughts the path is revealed. The fog of reality lifts, and other universes come into our reach.

People find their paths in different ways. Meditation is one. Art is another. Each provides a way to avoid the distractions of the world around us long enough to voyage into our deeper thoughts. To that extent, Zen is a form of escapism.

It seems that everyone is trying to escape, each in their own way. Escape from this world to a more perfect one. When things aren't perfect, people are disappointed and seek alternatives that are. When things are going right, people say they are... "Perfect!"

Producing the perfect giclée print is the Holy Grail of this book. The path starts with an idea and ends with its manifestation... making the journey a kind of manifest destiny.

There are no shortcuts on the way to perfection. My father used to say, "there's no 'Royal Road' to success." Instead, there is considerable tedium and trial especially if perfection is your goal.

Perseverance and an uncompromising attitude are important because in a perfect world, ninety-nine and a half just won't do. People value perfection because they know that it is hard to get. Perfection is about bringing out the "shine" in things. Like polishing the silver.

The accuracy facilitated by digital imaging puts perfection within grasp. The question now is, "What do you do when perfection is possible?"

What is perfect? That's up to you.

I can't tell you the entire answer. However I can tell you this: the longest path is the shortest route to Zen. Giclée prepress can be one of the most liberating experiences of your life. You can turn tedium into time travel.

The tedium I speak of is the repetitive nature of arts and crafts in general. Consider the art of origami where a simple object involves hundreds of folds. Similarly, making a detailed path in PhotoShop involves hundreds of carefully-plotted points. The time spent in such *detali* a can be seen as a blessing or a curse depending on your point of view. My father's advice on things like that was that we should "learn to like them." But how?

Setting perfection as your goal is how. Knowing and *appreciating* that every point on that path is a step closer to your goal, even if the path is a rocky one. If you have climbed a mountain you know of whence I speak. Zen is found in the climb. The journey becomes a test of one's spirit. And so it goes in giclée printing.

Giclée prepress can be as challenging as rock climbing, if you let it. Conquering printers and display devices can be your version of dragon slaying. PhotoShop is already like a real-life video game, after all. If your "*Compass of Desires*" points to perfection, escape with me now to the world of giclée printing and together we'll reach for the stars.





Duck Pond

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Self Portrait

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