

What I value most about being an artist is that artists possess an unusual amount of curiosity. Curiosity is magic: it's the force that drives creation of something out of nothing. In particular it allows one to make connections between things that are often overlooked or hidden. It allows one to make visible, often hidden or contrasting elements.

I grew up in Tampa, Florida, which was rich with experiences that were both ordinary and extraordinary. My grandfather, the primary man in my early life, was a sign-painter but also a Fez wearing Freemason. Seeing pictures of this very somber and serious man in a Fez filled me with curiosity. I ranked this curiosity right along with exotic and strange sideshows at the Florida State Fair. Then there was the Ringling Brothers Circus, some of whose performers lived in our neighborhood and later Disney World; it seemed as if I lived amongst exciting fictions and the nature of reality was often in question.

In an effort to reconcile fact and fiction, I embarked upon an art making practice. Amongst the 70's influence of Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Abstract Expressionism I found Gestalt Psychology. Out of this complicated theory, I fixated upon the concept of the figure-ground relationship. Interpreting this relationship meant that when you consider something (the figure) it can only be understood in the context of its environment (the ground). It also allowed for a juxtaposition of opposites creating a meaningful whole. I could see that the resulting meaning could be something more spiritual. This was very attractive to me because it artistically covered a lot of previous art historical ground and allowed for the continuing pursuit of the nature of reality wherever it might lead.

The medium I chose to work in was printmaking. I loved the technical aspects but especially the process because it could incorporate drawing, painting and photography. My education in lithography, intaglio and screenprinting, culminated with a terminal degree that allowed me to pursue a teaching career at the university level. Finished works often result in a complex hybrid of media asking the viewer to decode which media is used and what are it's implications. The question of what is real verses what is simulated is presented.

After teaching for 36 years at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, I retired as an Emeritus Professor of Art. Moving back to the Tampa Bay Area, I opened a studio in the warehouse arts district. I continue to pursue where my curiosity takes me through the media of painting and photography and rely upon the continuing ideas and goals established earlier in my career.

