



PRINTMAKER GALLERY

DOUGLAS BIKLEN

Douglas Biklen's photographs have a quality of realism, but emphasize geometry and colour. His subjects are recognizable, but also abstract. They tend to emphasize two or three big blocks of colour.

Biklen's work emphasizes saturated colours. His photographs are all taken in natural light, often in the early morning and late afternoon for their warm tones, yet sometimes a subject works best if caught in the subtle, even, cool light of a cloudy day.

Among the most abstract of his works is the series called "surface scenes." These photographs evoke landscape scenery but do not reproduce it.

So where do the surface scenes come from, these scenes that look like painted and discoloured surfaces? For several years now, Biklen has photographed the surfaces of sailboats in dry dock, in various states of repair and repainting. The space just above and below the waterline as well as the broad palette of rudders and centre boards, especially if recorded during the refurbishing process, are remindful of scenes found in nature. Sometimes, the colours or textures are unusual, adding to the mystery of the work, for example red mountains across a rough sea or spikes of white that appear to be snow covered grasses reaching to the night sky.

Biography:

Douglas Biklen is a fine art photographer who specializes in abstract images. His work has been exhibited at the Nancy Price Gallery (Jamaica, Vermont), the Delavan Art Center (Syracuse, New York), the Brandon Artists Guild (Brandon, Vermont) where he is a member, and the Metro Gallery at Burlington City Arts (Burlington, VT).

Biklen first developed an interest in photography as a child, using a Kodak Brownie camera, and later progressed to 35 mm single lens reflex cameras. He was an avid photographer while a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa during the 1960s. In the 1970s and '80s he pursued his interest in visual arts by becoming involved in film. In 1988 he was executive producer of an award-winning documentary *Regular Lives* that aired nationally on PBS. Subsequently he was Educational Advisor to the HBO documentaries *Educating Peter* (Academy Award winner for best short documentary, 1992) and *Graduating Peter* (2003). It was not until the 1990s that he returned to Medium Format photography, using a Hasselblad. His most recent work has been produced using Nikon cameras. He studied color photo techniques with Alison Shaw at the Maine Photographic Workshops and digital scanning and image preparation for printing at Light Work/Community Darkrooms at Syracuse University. Biklen's work can regularly be seen at the Brandon Artists Guild in Brandon, Vermont, and a full portfolio of surface scene photos can be viewed by appointment at the Metro Gallery in Burlington City Arts.

Background:

Douglas Paul Biklen (born September 8, 1945) is an American educator known for his work on social policy and disability. He is perhaps best known for his work on school inclusion and for promoting the controversial technique and theory of “facilitated communication.” During the 1980s, while lecturing in Melbourne Australia, he learned of the work of Rosemary Crossley who developed the method of facilitation as a means of aiding individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities to communicate by pointing or typing. He then introduced the method in the U.S. Critics of the method claim that it is the facilitator who is doing the communicating, and a debate within the research community has ensued. Biklen’s first article on the method appeared in the *Harvard Educational Review* in 1990 and subsequently he has published numerous additional studies as well as several books about it, including *Communication Unbound* (1993), *Contested Words Contested Science* (1997), and *Autism and the Myth of the Person Alone* (2005). He is producer, with Gerardine Wurzburg, of the film *Wretches and Jabberers* (2010) and co-produced the 2004 CNN documentary film *Autism Is A World*, directed by Wurzburg, which was nominated for an Academy Award. He also produced the film *My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonnette* (2004), screened at film festivals worldwide, and was executive producer of the film *Regular Lives* (1995) that was aired nationally in the U.S. on Public Broadcasting.

Biklen is Dean Emeritus of the School of Education at Syracuse University in New York State and currently divides his time between Melbourne, Australia and two U.S. locations: Orwell, Vermont and New York City.