



This is new and different,
a newsletter for and about my art.

I have art for sale, or merch if you want to call it that. Please see my Merch Webpage for more details.
<http://picassel.com/merch.html>

Art is expression, even if it's considered to be bad art, it's still an expression of the creator. Where does my art stand, oh—somewhere in the middle. Some folks like it, others do not. I cannot stop the creative process. Most of the time, the process is digital. I am exploring traditional art, and it's been a long time since that was the normal way of making art.

I will also admit that I have trouble creating art at times. I'm a perfectionist, and while that is great for creating layouts for print, it's not always great for creating for beauty.

Perfection in print production is a good idea, because once the art leaves the hands of the designer, it goes through other processes that are less perfect. Because the other processes use mechanical and human operations, the layout could be off a point or two in any direction. I believe that in order to give a printed piece the best opportunity at success, it starts with a perfect layout. I like layout and design. The font matching, interaction with the clients. I don't get much of that at this time, I have a day job scanning paper.

Traditional art is different. It's not going to be reproduced in most cases, therefore, have fun, forget about perfection. Computers put down marks on the paper that repeats, pencils are different. The pressure at which the graphite goes down onto the paper is different with each stroke. Even digital art can have that one off organic vibe. Once it's finished, it becomes repeatable to a point. It could vary, depending on the print device. Digital art printed from a laser printer is going to look different from an ink jet printer. Scanning is another can of variables, no two scanning devices will be the same. I'm not prepared to go down that rabbit hole.

With the publication of my coloring books, journals, scrap book papers and greeting cards, I had made up my mind to not be difficult. I'd print a sample on the laser

printer at home, and when the book or card became available, I'd order a copy to check colors. There was only one instance where the color had to be corrected. The blue I had chosen was more purple than blue. GCU wants RGB files for output. That's beyond my understanding, but it's their process. I chose to use Adobe Lightroom, and treat the card as a photo. It worked, I used a feature to set the white balance of the card, and the next sample came in closer to the target blue I was going for.

Blues and greens are the tricky colors when converting from one color mode to another, and printing, even trickier for some shades.

Look at the coloring books, color on the cover, the rest black and white. Expectations with the color on the cover were good. If it looked anything like it did on the screen, success.

The creation process is relaxing. There are times that I go overboard, and don't realize it, until I print a sample. The something has to come out — that's not fun. But if I don't change it, then it won't be fun to color. I didn't want to color the over engineered pages, why should I expect anyone else to color them?

Then I think about the perfection gene that I inherited. Yes, I have that gene, and I know where it came from. I found surveyors in the family tree. I know, what does that have to do with art? Whether it's a gene, or an environmental behavior that I learned, I have it. And let me tell you. It's hard to break. I will say that I have come a lot way in trying to break it. I like to think it's showing up in my art, though I can't be sure. Even the playful coloring pages I have made lately seem to have an engineered flow to them. I may not be able to break it completely, we will see what happens.

I have done plenty of talking about myself. I have given you links to my art. I think is time that I started experimenting with random. Best place for that is a sketch book. I plan to write an update in march. Remember social distancing, grr Covid, be safe. Then have fun and make lots of art.

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