



## KIM KEEVER

Kim Keever studied Engineering at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. In the late 1970's, he decided to dedicate his life to art, as he was always inclined towards it and became a full-time artist. Keever had a course in fluid flow dynamics while studying engineering. This led him to his abstract prints of dripping coloured pigments such as paint and ink into a tank of water and photographing it. He works inside his New York City studio with dozens of different coloured squeeze bottles in which he says, "These are like my paintbrushes," and in the center of the room surrounded by direct lights, a mirror on the front and a 100 megapixel Hasselblad digital camera, is a 200 gallon tanks that serve as his canvas. Kim Keever had been working with a water tank for 22 years. Initially, he created intricate miniature landscapes submerged in the tank and adding paint to disperse within the scene. However, he decided to simplify the whole operation and just drop coloured pigments in water and let the colours swirl together beautifully.

Kim Keever's photographs are always different, each one unique because of the random flow of the paint and ink through the water. He states in a video, ***"I love the randomness. I have no idea what the paint is going to do, what colours are really going to be prominent in the results. I have a certain idea of how it will flow, but I'm constantly amazed at the patterns and shapes that happen."*** Keever uses different types of paints with varying viscosities. Some are thicker such as house paint, a heavy material, in which would sink to the bottom of the tank or flow out like cumulous clouds. He eventually also adds in ink which drizzles slowly to create thin, transparent strips of colour in the water. It is absolutely astonishing to watch his process videos and see the paint slowly flow down into the water, fusing with the other colours. He says in an article from 'Ignant,' ***"I have accepted the lack of control and embrace the randomness."***





I was in awe and in wonderment when I first saw one of his photographs through a website admiring many other abstract photographers. A full digital gallery of Kim Keever's work from 'Waterhouse & Dodd' thrilled me with amazement as each one is unique and so, I decided to choose him as my research subject. Because his photographs are abstract, they are non-representational which makes people simply look at the coloured paints' random shape, and smooth, wispy, or cloud-like appearance underwater rather than an underlying message or expressing real figures in our world. Kim Keever's images are vibrant and have a dream-like mood in a way where a specific emotion is not being evoked yet simply created to view the beauty and alluring display of the cloud-like and airy strips of paint or ink underwater. This is something original to me, so my first emotional response to his photos was complete astonishment.

Recently, Kim Keever has been incorporating balloons which added a different element to his pieces. It very beautiful to see how all of these elements, the paint, the water and the balloons, interact with one another. But what amazes me the most is that he uses only very minimal components to create these beautiful abstract images. The idea itself is quite unique to me which is why I was very interested in his work. Overall, Kim Keever's abstract underwater art conveyed a different, simplistic yet magnificent style and influenced, also encouraged, my creative thinking into wonderment, setting my view not just capturing representation in our world's reality but to seek something new, beyond what we always see. As said in an article from 'Wired', ***"Keever admits that there's not much conceptual heft behind his work. His images are vibrant, beautiful odes to physics, and sometimes, he says, that's enough."***

<https://www.wired.com/story/these-abstract-prints-turn-physics-into-art/>

<http://www.waterhousedodd.com/kim-keever>

<https://www.ignant.com/2016/01/08/abstract-underwater-art-by-kim-keever/>

