DAVID RACKLEY

As a photographer, I attempt to be mindful of the nature of the camera, as well as the beauty of a medium that makes the assertion that the artist was in the presence of the subject at a particular place and time. I try to take that concrete reality, that immediacy, and make it an integral part of my work.

My medium is hand painted black and white photography.

I begin by using a large or medium-format film camera, developing the film in the usual manner. I then use a 4x5 enlarger to make a silver gelatin print on fiber based photographic paper. Once the image is dry, I paint it with photo oils, photo pencils or a combination of both. Traditionally, the coloring of black and white photographs has been called tinting, and involved a slight coloring of the image, resulting in a soft, pastel effect. I usually apply the paint thickly in order to achieve a saturation of color. In most of my work, the painting is as important as the original photograph, so I categorize the process as mixed media.