



TERRY GILECKI



EARLY LIFE AND BACKGROUND

Canadian artist Terry Gilecki was born in 1954, with sources identifying either British Columbia or Saskatchewan as his place of birth. He pursued formal artistic training early in life, earning a diploma in Commercial Art in 1973 after college study in Manitoba. His early professional years in commercial art, including sign writing and freelance illustration, shaped the technical discipline and innovative approach that later characterised his fine art practice

ARTISTIC JOURNEY

His career began within the commercial art industry, where he developed a strong reputation for creativity and technical versatility. His work ranged from airbrushed vehicle art to large pictorial advertising and mural production. As the demand for his fine art grew, he gradually shifted focus. A defining moment occurred when he encountered koi ponds during research for a mural project. This experience profoundly influenced his artistic direction and led him to create the extensive koi-centred series that has become his signature contribution to contemporary art.

ART STYLE AND TECHNIQUES

He is widely recognised for his highly detailed waterscapes, often featuring koi in serene aquatic environments. His style merges *realism and surrealism*, bringing together elements above, below, and reflected upon the water's surface. Technically, he uses reactive mediums, layered translucent colour, and intricate textural work to create depth, movement, and a tranquil atmosphere. These techniques draw on decades of experimentation and the broad skillset he developed through his commercial and fine art background

INSPIRATIONS AND THEMES

Gilecki's principal inspiration is the koi, a subject he regards as rich in history, symbolism, and emotional resonance. He believes that koi naturally evoke calm, clarity, and thoughtful contemplation, and he aims to replicate this restorative sensation in his paintings. His themes often explore the relationship between humans and nature, the meditative qualities of water, and the quiet spiritual moments found in observing living creatures. In some works, he incorporates subtle human references to highlight the long-standing connection between koi and people



EXHIBITIONS AND RECOGNITION

Gilecki's artworks have been widely exhibited and collected throughout Canada and the United States. His koi paintings continue to attract strong interest from collectors internationally, with documented record auction prices in recent years. Galleries such as Visions Fine Art Gallery and CV Art and Frame regularly feature his work, acknowledging both his technical mastery and his enduring appeal as a contemporary fine artist.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE

Terry Gilecki's legacy lies in his ability to transform a singular theme "the koi" into a broad, emotionally engaging, and visually rich body of work. His paintings offer viewers "a small piece of paradise," providing moments of peace and reflection in daily life. Through his innovative blending of artistic disciplines, technical refinement, and thematic depth, Gilecki has influenced collectors and aspiring artists who seek to combine realism, symbolism, and emotional expression. His work continues to shape contemporary interpretations of aquatic and nature-based art.

FIND OUT MORE...

[Terry Gilecki Website](#)

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. When and where was Terry Gilecki born?
2. What inspired Terry Gilecki to become an artist?
3. What materials and techniques does Gilecki often use in his paintings?
4. What themes does Terry Gilecki explore in his artwork?
5. How has Terry Gilecki contributed to the art world?