



SH 12 *Fluttering Fortunes (II)*



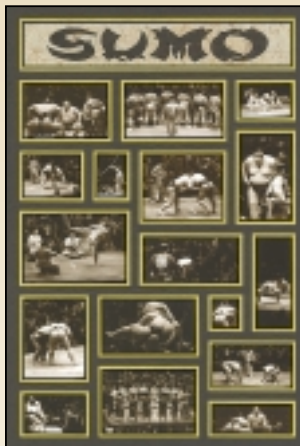
SH 09 *A Golden Smile*



101 *Feuding Jacks*



S 02 *Guarding Your Way*



S 06 *Sumo*



104 *Fan(t)Asia*



102 *Japan At A Glance (I)*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and educated in the Canadian province of Alberta, Gregory G. Vikse lived and taught in Australia and Egypt before coming to Japan. Although an art and photography teacher by profession, he is undoubtedly an artist and photographer by avocation.



Hand coloured photograph of the artist.

A resident of Japan since 1990, Mr. Vikse is keenly aware of the dichotomy that now exists in this country. He is captivated by a society that has moved so quickly into the 21st century while holding on steadfast to its traditions. He finds the coexistence of new and old intriguing and the inspiration for his **Images of Japan** collection.

Although an avid photographer, there are occasions when Mr. Vikse sets his camera aside and puts his paints and brushes to use. In *Japan At A Glance*, a colourful combination of ink, watercolours and washi paper was used to depict the pageantry associated with Japanese festivals.

On the other hand, Mr. Vikse prefers to photograph Japanese subject matter that has stood the test of time. Using black & white film allows landmarks such as the temple in *Serenity* or the stone statues in *Guarding Your Way* to be portrayed in a simplistic, yet dignified manner.

Mr. Vikse gets the best of both worlds when he hand colours his photographs. As an artist, he enjoys the process of selecting and painting the focal points in his work. *Fluttering Fortunes*, with the kimono-clad women, is an excellent example of this unique art form. This piece, along with his other 11 hand coloured photographs, is very popular.

If you are interested in purchasing Mr. Vikse's work or wish to contact him, his telephone number, mail and e-mail addresses are listed below. You can also visit his website at www.geocities.com/~gvikse for further information.

IMAGES OF JAPAN

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Images of Japan

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Cover Image - SH 02 *Genki*

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Although the idea of working in black & white is a tad old fashioned, it has a number of creative benefits. By eliminating the superficial veneer of colour, black & white prints unleash a world of line, shape and texture that colour prints conceal. Gregory G. Vikse takes his photographs one step further by treating them in Kodak sepia toner to produce a distinctive monotone colour. He uses Kodak T Max film and Ilford Ilfospeed paper.

Hand Coloured - In addition to toning, Mr. Vikse paints his photographs to add his own "take" on a particular scene.

Originally used to make black & white photographs look more life like, hand colouring seemed destined for extinction with the introduction of colour film. However, the reports of its demise were greatly exaggerated. This unique art form is visually exciting and is here to stay!



SH 11 *Let's Begin*



SH 01 *Peaceful Journey*



S 04 *Tranquility*



SH 07 *Fluttering Fortunes (I)*



S 03 *Serenity*



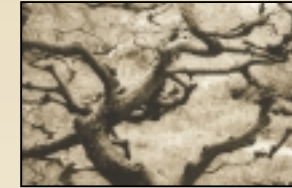
SH 08 *Bamboo*



SH 03 *Timeless Faith*



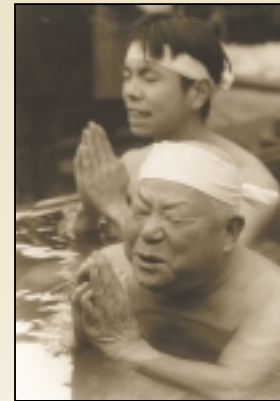
SH 06 *Enduring Gifts*



S 05 *Entanglement*



SH 04 *Homeward Bound*



S 01 *Purifying The Soul*



SH 05 *Hanging On To Tradition*



SH 10 *Circling The Dohyo*

ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations allow Gregory G. Vikse to combine his abilities as a draftsman – designing the *Japan At A Glance* layouts, illustrator – fashioning the *Feuding Jacks* character and photographer – shooting the models used in *Tokyo Train*.

Tokyo Train - Years ago, while riding a train in Tokyo, Mr. Vikse's creative eye caught a youngster sitting across the aisle. He happened to have some paper and a pencil handy, so... what began

1 06 *Tokyo Train (3 Panels)* This piece may also be purchased individually (a, b, c)

as a rough sketch grew into a two-year project involving 40 models and a dozen different illustrative media.

"I'm intrigued by the variety of commuters on Tokyo's train lines," Mr. Vikse remarks. "It's one place where people from all walks of life congregate; you see businessmen in their suits, elderly women in kimono and today's more radical youth with coloured hair, tattoos and nose rings."



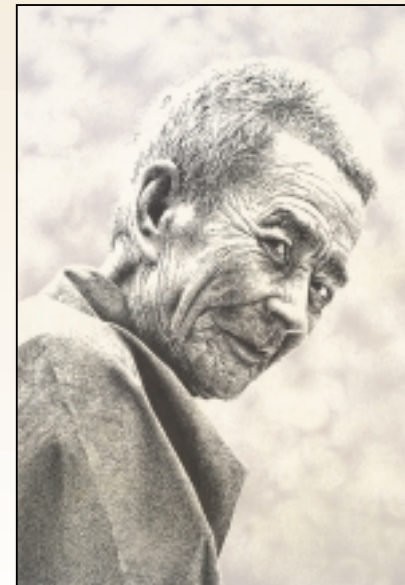
1 06(a) *How Much Longer?*



1 06(b) *Ticket Please*



1 06(c) *Did You Hear?*



1 05 *One Final Look*



1 03 *Japan At A Glance (II)*