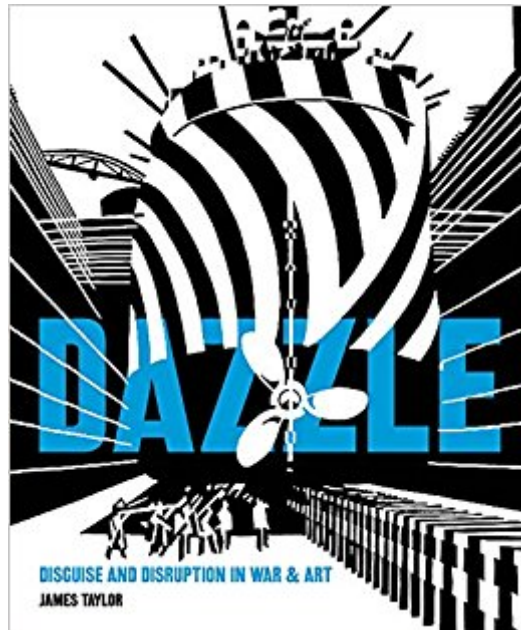


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# Dazzle: Disguise And Disruption In War And Art



## Synopsis

While it is a constant throughout history that conflict has inspired and engendered great art, it is a much rarer event for art to impact directly upon the vicissitudes of war. Yet, in the course of the First World War, a collision of naval strategy and the nascent modern art movement, led to some two thousand British ships going to sea as the largest painted modernist canvases in the world covered in abstract, clashing, decorative, and geometric designs in a myriad of colors. Dazzle camouflage had arrived. Heavily inspired by the Cubism and British Vorticism art movements, dazzle was conceived and developed by celebrated artist and then naval commander Norman Wilkinson. Dazzle camouflage rejects concealment in favor of disruption. It seeks to break up a ship's silhouette with brightly contrasting geometric designs to make a vessel's speed and direction incredible difficult to discern. False painted bow-waves and sterns were used to confuse and throw off the deadly U-boat captains. The high contrast shapes and colors further made it very difficult to match up a ship in the two halves of an optical naval rangefinder. This new book traces the development of the dazzle aesthetic from theory into practice and beyond.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Naval Institute Press (September 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1591146364

ISBN-13: 978-1591146360

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.6 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #299,573 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Ships #127 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Military History #305 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships

## Customer Reviews

The color illustrations mostly early 20th Century paintings will enamor sailors, historians, artists, designers and anyone else dazzled by design (popularized as Op Art in the 1960s). Military Times

James Taylor is a former curator of paintings at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. His most recent books include *Your Country Needs You: The Secret History of the Propaganda Poster*, *Marine Painting* and *Careless Talk Costs*.

Being of, ahem, sound mind and body, this is coolest book I have bought in a long time. Lavished in illustrations and thought that transcends Dazzle as single concept of war, but as art. Brilliant

This is an interesting look at the development of dazzle camouflage, and the artists who were most responsible for it. It would be a good addition to any military or art enthusiasts library. As a model builder, I'm finding a lot of inspiration in the book.

Great illustrations, nice detail on the theory of dazzle and the people involved.

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