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If you only need the buying answer, this is one of the stronger print-ownership cases in the batch. The current Merybook print listing is essentially tied with short-term digital access and still far below the broader new-print market, so buying print makes real sense if you want the book for studio work rather than just temporary access.

Current price comparison

Format / Seller	Price	Link
Print from Merybook	\$54.89	Check price
CampusBooks eBook	\$55.00	Check price
CampusBooks rental, 90 days	\$57.99	Check price
CampusBooks used print	\$86.55	Check price
CampusBooks / McGraw Hill new print range	\$119.99-\$203.49	Check price

The reason this matters is that art and design books are not ordinary text-heavy textbooks. When a print copy is basically the same cost as temporary access, ownership becomes much easier to defend. Here, the current print listing is not just competitive; it is unusually strong against both rental and digital access.

What this book actually teaches

Launching the Imagination 3D is meant to train spatial thinking, form development, and design problem-solving. The real educational value is not simply that it shows finished objects; it helps students understand how three-dimensional work is conceived, structured, and critiqued. That means process matters as much as product.

For studio learners, that usually translates into repeated looking. Students return to diagrams, material examples, composition decisions, and examples of how form changes under different constraints. That is exactly the sort of use case where a physical book has more learning value than a temporary access window, especially

when the book may stay relevant across more than one project.

Who should buy print and who should not

Buy print if you are in a studio course, expect to sketch directly from examples, or know you will reuse the book while developing projects over time. This is one of the rare cases where the print format is both pedagogically and financially easy to defend.

Skip print only if you truly need the cheapest possible temporary access and do not care about keeping the book after the class ends. Even then, the savings are so small that the short-term digital route is not especially compelling.

Sources checked

- Merybook product listing for ISBN 9781260402223
- CampusBooks format and market pricing for *Launching the Imagination 3D*
- Pricing reviewed on April 19, 2026