

Giclees

A couple of years ago I found several old sepia photos of my dad from the mid-1950's. He had just won a *Field and Stream* fishing contest. He was standing on a dock holding a stringer loaded with more fish than you can imagine. He could not have looked more robust or happier. These photos are precious to everyone in our family as my father passed away in 1995. At that moment, I resolved to use these photos to create keepsake memories for my brother, Rick Jr and my sister, Kathleen. I decided to learn the art of "giclee"!

Giclee is French for "spray of ink" Giclees are becoming very popular because they are a low cost, easy way to duplicate family photographs or your own artwork using today's technology: your home computer and ink jet printer. The final print can be any size desired giving the artist final control over the output. The artist may also reproduce the art work on an as needed basis versus cost consideration that comes into play with mass production. In other words, you can make a few prints or a few hundred prints based on the demand for your work.

If you already own a computer and an ink jet printer (an inexpensive printer works just fine), you need just a few supplies to get started: Digital images (through scanning, digital camera, prints from a CD), Printer, canvas or watercolour paper for inkjet printer, sealer and paint for enhancement.

To create a giclee, first your artwork or image must be "digitized" which means turning the image into a computer file called a jpg [pronounced jay peg] This acronym stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group. This format is preferred because it is a 24 bit {16.7 million colours} per image.

Images may be digitized by either scanning the image with a scanner or photographing the image with a digital camera. Digital cameras create images of varying quality. The higher the megapixel rating on the camera the crisper the image will appear. A pixel is a dot that combines with other dots to create the image. The lower end cameras use 3 megapixels whereas the professional cameras use 6 or more. The lens is also a consideration. A great website to do independent research of digital cameras is at website www.digitalcameraguide.com

Another option is scanning in the image by either scanning the actual artwork or a print photo of the artwork. The quality of the scan is determined by the dpi or dots per inch measured both vertically and horizontally. When obtaining a scanner, there is no reason to purchase one that is higher resolution than the target printer. If you plan to scan directly from the image, buy as large of a flat bed scanner as possible so as not to restrict image size. You can scan portions of an image and

piece it together in a software application. The final option is when you have prints made from your 35mm camera, request a CD of the prints and your images will be in the desired jpg format.

The next step is to pull your image into a photo software application. There are many software programs available to manipulate your artwork. The most popular and versatile are Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Elements (www.adobe.com), Paintshop Pro (www.jasc.com), Corel Painter7 (www.corel.com), SmART Lens (www.voilaartware.com) and more. These programs afford the options of cropping, cut and paste, erase, resize, adjust colour, changing photos into a “painting” and recolour. You probably have software on your computer to do many of these functions especially if you use digital photography.

Printing with an ink jet printer is the next step in creating a giclee. An inkjet printer sprays ink onto the paper. Canvas paper or watercolour paper specially designed for the printer is used. The canvas is a fine woven blend of polyflax and cotton, and is specially coated with an acid free acrylic titanium gesso to provide long term archival quality just like Fredrix® Artist Canvas. A clear topcoat is applied for greater ink adhesion and to deliver better, more color intense reproduction. As a result of the extraordinary advances in printing technology, and the development of the specially-coated ink receptive canvas, you can now print on canvas almost as easily and as economically as you can print on paper. Although there may be a slight learning curve, printing on canvas is not much different than printing on paper.

Print quality is determined by resolution or DPI. The more dots per inch, the finer the print quality will appear. Paper may be obtained at your local art supply store, office product supply store or online at www.kingslan.com, **Strathmore Artist Papers®** www.strathmoreartist.com/products/inkjet.html **Fredrix Artist Canvas®** www.fredrixartistcanvas.com/contentprint.html or www.fredrixartistcanvas.com

If you wish to have printed a larger image by a printing service, listed below are some economical options:

www.art.com

www.pictureframes.com

www.azteccopies.com

www.artistprintshop.com/PaperorCanvas.html

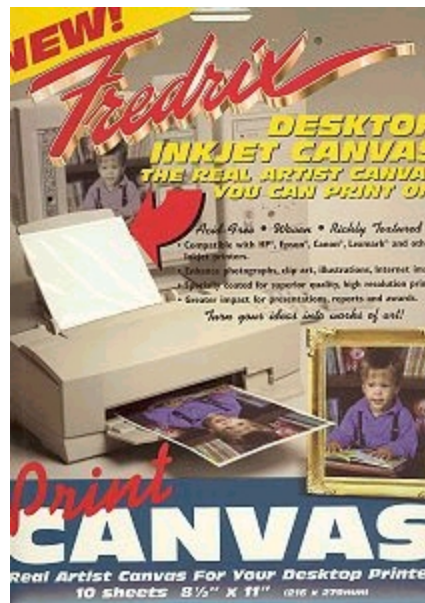
<http://gicleebythebay.com/PrintingCostsPaperCanvas.html>

Ink jet printer ink is water soluble which means it will be damaged if it gets wet. The print therefore must be sealed. Genesis Giclee Inkset is an option. This medium also enhances the colour. The medium may be applied in a swirly or thick

application so that it appears like brush strokes. This will give the print a more “painterly” quality. Next, the print may be enhanced with paint. All sections can be repainted or just small individual areas. You can embellish just the highlights, the background, change a colour, paint out an undesirable aspect, add new items!

Teachers can use giclees in their class. Some uses include to teach a particular method without the preliminary work in class. For example: teach shines, teach shadows, teach floating of colour

Create your own prints and share your artwork! It is as easy as scan, print, seal and enhance.



Create your own prints!

Get started with Giclee Medium and Print Canvas
All available at www.kingslan.com under Shop/Giclee Supplies for Prints

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Photo 1: Photo by Mary Gibilisco on Prince Edward Island
Photo 2: Photo turned into a “watercolour” through PhotoShop.
Then sealed with Genesis Giclee Medium. Lastly, enhanced with
Genesis Heat Set Oils.



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Photo 1: Photo by Mary Gibilisco of son, Christopher.
Photo 2: Photo cropped and lightened, then turned into a “watercolour” through PhotoShop. Then sealed with Genesis Giclee Medium. Lastly, enhanced with Genesis Heat Set Oils.



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Photo 1: Photo by Mary Gibilisco of daughter Anna and son, Christopher.

Photo 2: Photo turned into a “watercolour” through PhotoShop. Then sealed with Genesis Giclee Medium. Lastly, enhanced with Genesis Heat Set Oils.



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Photo 1: Photo by an original painting by Mary Gibilisco

Photo 2: Sealed with Genesis Giclee Medium. Repainted with Genesis Heat Set Oils to increase the lights and darks.



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