What Digital Files Work best for a Giclĕe Printer?

Ani Eastwood Giclee Printing 2018

Type of file:

Large, Raw photo files work best that have had no editing whatsoever. Jpg and PSD are preferred, because they are usually in the same colorspace as photoshop which is Adobe RGB, not CMMK

PDF and Tiif are also accepted

The majority of Cell phone images are very low quality (about 72dpi) and will not print correctly. They will be very blurry and grainy unless they are smaller or equal to 11"x14". If you have an image you just love that was taken in this format, we can look at it and I can tell you what size could still get good results. I have used cell phone images to print 11"x14" sizes successfully, however that is kind of the cut off. It is difficult to go really big with these files.

300 DPI is required for Giclĕe Printing: Giclĕe printheads are over twice as small as a normal color printer. This and an increased 12 color range instead of 4 colors is what makes them achieve so much more detail and color range. However, this does mean they are a little pickier in regards to the digital image. I have had successful results with 200 DPI, but 300 is preferred.

Do not enlarge your image to 300dpi if it is not that way initially before sending me the file. Please give it to me before it is enlarged in its most original form, even if it is not this quality. There are some tricks to increasing the dpi if it is not quite the size we are wanting but we don't want it converted twice. You do not need to reformat the size of your piece to the final printing size. This is easy for me to do, and I don't want to lose information by doing this twice. There is no charge to you for size formatting.

Sometime cameras with zoom will read something like this when you look up your image size; (72DPI, image size 25"x32") This actually does translate to 300 dpi at a 18x24 size, it is just a different formatting your camera did with its zoom lens, and is still a very good image. If you took the picture at a raw or highest jpg quality, you should be good. Where we run into problems is if it says 72 dpi at image size of 3"x5" etc.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Copyright considerations before sending your files or putting them online PROTECT YOUR FILES!

Try to stay away from sites that upload your raw images onto shopping cart pages. (This is what many "fine art photography" sites do.   There are always 3rd parties with access to these. This is why I like to have artist's images emailed directly to me.

If your file is very large, consider using dropbox or a secure google account to send images

Consider erasing your images off your email occasionally, so you don't have a bunch of raw files sitting there if your email is breeched.

I always, always suggest doing watermarks on all images that are on websites and on the web.
Please contact me if you want help setting up your watermarks. Don't let people copy/paste and print your original works. They are just too precious, and too easily stolen.

Editing/ Do it Yourself or Let me Try:
I included a good deal of proofing and editing in my initial proofing price.

If you have editing you want to do on your piece yourself, please consider giving me two files, a raw file and an edited file, so I can see what you have done. This is especially important if it is a painting where I have not gotten to see the original. It will give me more of an idea of how things really are and what you are looking for in the final piece

Let me know if you have already sharpened your image, so this is not done twice, which can cause a grainy look

Cropping: You are of course welcome to crop your image how you prefer before you send it to me so I know how you want it to look.

Where an artist's eye comes into play

There is always a gap between how images look on the computer, and how they transfer to the printer, even if everything is perfectly calibrated. This has to do primarily with the fact the computer screen has a bright backround you are looking through. Usually, this means images print darker than expected first try.

I have gotten used to editing according to how I know my particular printer works, and I have spent a good deal of time calibrating my equipment. Most of my proofing is trying to match what I see on the screen to the result from my printer, knowing the quirks of my particular machine. This being said, my edits will not necessarily look the same if you take them to another printer. Each machine has their ways of interpreting files, so things are edited to my particular machine.