

The Parkville Frame Gallery

Newsletter

2022 Newsletter #22-3 (May/June)

Subject: Giclée Prints

When writing a newsletter, especially a newsletter for a picture framing gallery, there is sometimes the potential to slip-and-slide a little too far into the weeds--one of those dark murky places where too much detail is just waiting to confront us. That said, what can be broccoli for some can be seen as tiramisu by others. Enter--**Giclée**. The term Giclée (pronounced zhee-Klay) is based on the French word *gicleur*, the French technical term for a jet or a nozzle, and the associated verb *gicler* (to squirt out). *Une giclée* (noun) means a spurt of some liquid. The French verb form *gicler* means to spray, spout, or squirt (I know, I know—here we are in the weeds, but keep reading).

Giclée prints are at the high end of the inkjet printing process. Giclée prints are produced with an extremely fine spray of many different sized droplets of ink. This application of overlapping dots of ink mixes, forming additional color combinations. The application of the inks in this printing process is so fine that there are no discernible dots or droplets visible on the final print.



The Annunciation (1672)

When you buy a reproduction of fine art, a giclée print, so to speak, whether printed on paper or on canvas, you will immediately recognize the high quality of the product produced by the “giclée process”. Some giclée reproductions capture the essence of the original art (e.g., an original oil painting) best when printed on canvas, while others (i.e., watercolor paintings) appear most realistic when printed on paper. For example, consider the oil painting *The Annunciation* (1672), a beautiful painting attributed to the Italian painter Luca Giordano, a leading painter in Naples in the late seventeenth century, and one of the most sought-after Italian artists of the day. You would probably want this art reproduced on canvas. We offer a giclée reproduction of this painting printed on canvas, and framed with a (reproduction) Italian Pastiglia, cassetta, period-frame. This framed giclée print would make a beautiful addition to your home.

Consider another example. Look at the powerful painting *The Fog Warning* (1885) by the famous American artist Winslow Homer. Homer created this painting using oil paint on canvas. The *Fog Warning* is a painting with a narrative, though its tale is a little disturbing rather than charming.



The Fog Warning (1885)

As indicated by the halibut in his dory, the fisherman has had a successful catch. However, because of the potential danger posed by the approaching fog, the most difficult task of the day, the return to the ship, is still ahead of him. He turns to look at the horizon, measuring the distance to the mother ship, and to safety. Because Homer's original painting was painted in oil, a reproduction of this painting would also be most appropriate if reproduced on canvas. A print on canvas costs more than one on paper; however, glass and mat board are not needed for a print when it is printed on canvas.



Winslow Homer

Winslow Homer was an American landscape painter and printmaker. He painted in oil and watercolor. He is best known for his marine-theme paintings. He is considered one of the foremost painters of 19th-century America, and a preeminent figure in American art. Largely self-taught, Homer began his career working as a commercial illustrator. Consider Homer's lovely painting: *The End of the Day, Adirondacks*. This is a watercolor painting that Homer painted in 1890. It is owned by The Art Institute of Chicago.

The End of the Day, Adirondacks, captures a sport fisherman's introspective moment. Homer rendered the light from the setting sun with pale pink and orange washes, as seen in the sky and reflected in the water. The foliage in the background and at the right side of the picture is depicted abstractly, adding to the scene's hazy atmosphere. Because this is a watercolor painting, it should probably be reproduced on paper versus canvas, and would be best displayed with high-quality acid-free mat board (not shown) and non-reflective glass. Come see it in the gallery.



The End of the Day, Adirondacks (1890)