



What Is an Archival Pigment Print?

Archival pigment prints are created using refined pigment particles to produce exquisite, high-resolution artwork. This printing method results in museum-quality pieces designed for longevity, with both the ink and paper playing critical roles in their lifespan. In this context, "archival" denotes prints that can last for extended periods when properly cared for and stored.

Innovative digital printing techniques now offer superior longevity compared to traditional methods. The ideal archival print balances various factors, including ink, paper, mounting, and storage options. Artists, collectors, and museum curators can choose from a range of materials, such as canvas and cotton watercolor paper, allowing for customization based on individual style, needs, and budget.

Does Archival Ink Fade?

Pigment-based inks are significantly more durable than traditional dyes, as they are composed of finely ground powders suspended in a liquid. These inks are not water-soluble, allowing them to dry quickly and bond effectively with paper fibers, making them highly resistant to fading.

The Qualities of Your Paper

Choosing the right paper is crucial for producing archival-quality prints. Here are some key considerations:

- **Optical Brightening Agents (OBAs):** These agents enhance the brightness of paper by absorbing ultraviolet (UV) light and reflecting it as visible blue light. While this can significantly enhance the vibrancy of prints, OBAs can fade over time, affecting the overall aesthetic.
- **Acid and Lignin-Free Paper:** Acid and lignin can severely impact print longevity. Acid and lignin-free paper is treated to resist becoming acidic over time, ensuring greater durability. In contrast, paper containing these elements will age more quickly and lose its color.
- **Base Material:** The choice of base material greatly influences both print quality and longevity. Various materials offer different textures and properties, with new options continuously emerging. While traditional wood pulp paper is common, it presents challenges due to acidity. Cotton or polyester rag paper is increasingly popular for its enhanced longevity and superior ink retention, leading to improved color fastness.

What Is the Process of Pigment Printing?

Archival digital prints are produced using high-quality inkjet printers that utilize pigment-based inks. This process results in clear, durable prints with excellent resolution, allowing for creative flexibility. Unlike bulk printing methods, pigment printing focuses on individual pieces, emphasizing detail and quality—making it the ideal choice for showcasing artwork in its best light. The meticulous nature of this printing process contributes significantly to the impressive longevity of archival pigment prints.

How Are Archival Prints on Canvas Used?



Archival prints can replicate traditional images and can be produced in a wide variety of sizes, offering endless creative possibilities. This method is accessible to amateur artists looking to display or sell their work, as well as to individuals wishing to preserve prints for future generations.

Art galleries and museums commonly use archival photo printing to display notable works and preserve cultural heritage for years to come.

For more detailed information, you can refer to [Tribeca Print Works](#) , our resource for this document.