

Paper or Canvas Prints?

My paintings are photographed and printed by Lisa Langer of *Pencil In The River Studio* in N. Tonawanda, NY. I chose Lisa as my printer when I saw samples of her prints of watercolors, and had to put my nose on the glass to tell the difference between the print and the original painting. To me, a sign of a good watercolor is the subtle color variations in the washes, and Lisa captured that with her photography and printing.

For paper and canvas prints, I choose a printed size that is about 10% smaller than the original. I print a limited edition of this one size, and will not print any more once the edition is sold out. I don't print a variety of sizes.

Archival images produced on an Epson 11880 printer. It is currently recognized as the best quality printer for fine art Gicleé * printing.

Paper prints are on Sunset Cotton Etching 285 G/M2 using archival inks. The paper is similar in color and texture to a smooth watercolor paper. They look almost exactly like the original painting.

Canvas prints are printed on the same machine. The ink is sprayed on the prepared canvas, allowed to dry for several days, then the canvas is sprayed with a UV resistant varnish. The satin varnish creates a bit of a shine, which makes the darks seem a little darker, and the colors a little richer. Personally, I think they look great, and I love the fact that they don't need to be framed under glass. Some people (my husband being one) do not like the canvas prints because they don't look as much like a watercolor as the paper print. Depends on how much of a purist you are, I guess.

The canvas has a little bit of a texture, but nothing that will interfere with the clarity and detail of the image.

Everything is shipped flat. The paper is quite thick and doesn't roll well. The canvas is stretched on stretcher bars, and can be framed, or a hanging wire can be put on the stretcher bars..

* The word "giclée" was created by a print maker who wanted a name for the new type of prints produced on a large format high resolution ink-jet printer adapted for fine art printing. He was specifically looking for a word that would not have the negative connotations of "ink-jet" or "computer generated". To make the word descriptive of ink-jet technologies he based it on the French language word "le gicleur" meaning "nozzle", or more specifically "gicler" meaning "to squirt, spurt, or spray".

Giclee prints are recognized as a huge technical advance for producing artist's prints, and they are appreciated by artists, as we can have a few made at a time. We pay much more per print, but don't have to worry about storing a hundred or more, as we did in the old off-set lithography printing days.