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www.artlives.net

## Custom Artwork

### THE BASICS

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## STARTING YOUR PROJECT

### First Contact

Completing the custom art request form, located at [www.artlives.net/custom.html](http://www.artlives.net/custom.html) is the best way to begin a relationship with the artist and initiate a custom work. A letter, an e-mail or voicemail with your interests including your name, address, phone number and e-mail address (if available) is also acceptable if you prefer.

### Second Contact

The collector will be contacted via telephone, e-mail or post (regular mail) to establish the best times to discuss the commissioned piece. This meeting can be in person or over the phone (depending on collector's location).

### Initial Meeting

Once the meeting time and date have been agreed upon, the artist and collector will discuss the type of portrait being commissioned (the complexity or simplicity of the work), the medium to be used, turnaround time, sessions, schedule, pricing and payment options. This initial meeting is vital to the commission process and must be honored by both collector and artist. Should a scheduling conflict arise, contact the studio (1) week prior to the meeting date in order to reschedule.

### Schedules

The artist will place each collector on a yearly schedule. Notification will be made by e-mail or post. The start date of your custom art project will depend upon the number of other commissions, projects and events on the artist's calendar. Each collector's project must have ample studio time to assure quality and artistic integrity. If the start date is a problem, please contact the studio immediately.

### Portrait Sessions

Live sessions with the subjects of portraiture are important. These sessions or sittings are scheduled time with the artist to pose for the portrait. Often photos are taken (color and black & white) for further study. Though sessions are not necessary to complete a portrait (collectors may supply a variety of photos and notes), sessions are encouraged. As the portrait is being created, collectors may be invited by the artist to see the piece (if possible) in its developmental stage to discuss the direction of the artwork and to make further decisions.



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*(Starting Your Project continued)*

### **Pricing**

Depending on the piece being requested, prices will vary. When filling out the online request form, include a budget that you have in mind. Otherwise, send a message to [studio@artlives.net](mailto:studio@artlives.net) with your contact information (your name, address, phone/fax and e-mail) and your budget. This will help determine the materials to be used, dimensions of the work, communication during the project and other vital details.

You can also request a quote for a specific project. Please note that general estimates and quotes do not include unforeseen expenses related to highly complex, large-scale pieces, transportation and additional materials. These items must be discussed with the artist at the initial meeting in order to establish a final price. A Reimbursement Form will be issued by the studio on the balance due date for extra expenses incurred during and related to the commission.

### **Payment Options**

Art Lives Studio currently accepts checks, money orders and credit card payments via PayPal. A deposits of 50% is due at the signing of the contract. Balances may be paid in full (1) week before delivery of the portrait or in installments. Please indicate your preferences at the Initial Meeting. Make checks and money orders payable to Art Lives Studio.

NEXT: Media Used For Custom Art >>



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### Media Used For Custom Art

*Notes: Papers used are all tree-free and acid free, including 100% organic cotton rag, papyrus, hemp / ppc (post consumer content) recycled mix and other options. Please request.*

*Canvas choices are 100% linen, organic cotton or hemp canvas.*

*Wood is reclaimed, whenever possible, or from Forest Stewardship lumber.*

#### **oils**

The traditional medium for portraiture, oil paints produce textures, moods and colours unlike other mediums. Artwork created in oil varies greatly in content and expression.

SUPPORTS: canvas or wood

#### **acrylic**

Open to experimentation as well as to traditional approaches.

SUPPORTS: canvas, paper or wood

#### **watercolour**

Style: Non-purist, painting thickly, using deep vibrant colours and soft tonal hues to create wonderful contrasts and textures that add depth and space.

SUPPORTS: canvas, paper or wood

#### **collage**

May include old letters, newspaper, personal objects and variety of material to help express the direction of the piece. Another unusual but exciting choice for portraiture. The results are unique personal treasures. *Highly complex.*

SUPPORTS: canvas, paper or wood

#### **mixed media**

Providing a great latitude for experimentation, mixed media can include an endless list of material to help define the work. May include paint, sewn elements, found objects, household items, car parts, bottles and anything else that lends to the intent of the piece.

*An exciting choice and highly complex.*

SUPPORTS: wood, fabrics, paper and found objects.

