

Understanding Art Reproductions

At Dorrigo Photographic Services, we take great care in creating high-quality reproductions of original artwork. However, it's important to understand that reproductions can never be absolutely identical to the original. This isn't a limitation of our process—it's simply the nature of translating one medium into another.

Why Reproductions Aren't Exact

1. Camera Capture (RGB vs. Pigments)

Your original artwork may contain thousands of unique pigments and colour blends. Our camera captures the artwork digitally using RGB colour channels. This is a different colour model than physical pigments. While professional archival cameras are extremely accurate, they must still translate complex pigment mixtures into digital colour values, which can't always be 100% identical.

2. Printing (11-Colour Ink System)

Once digitised, the image is reproduced using our 11-colour fine art Giclée printer. Just like the camera, the printer must interpret colours and recreate them using its available inks. Some pigments in your artwork may not fall exactly within the range of colours inks can produce (known as the gamut), so the printer makes the closest possible match.

3. Substrates & Materials

The choice of paper, canvas, or other printing surface affects how colours appear. Gloss, matte, or textured surfaces reflect light differently, which can subtly shift the perceived colour.

4. Display Environment

Originals and reproductions are often viewed under different conditions. Backlit screens (digital files) appear more luminous, while printed reproductions rely on reflected light, which changes with gallery lighting, daylight, or indoor bulbs.

What This Means for You

Reproductions are a faithful representation of your artwork, not a molecular-level copy. We offer proofing and adjustments to get as close as possible to your original vision. Many artists find that while reproductions aren't identical, they are indistinguishable to most viewers, especially once framed and displayed.

Our Commitment

Our goal is always to honour your original work by producing the highest-quality reproduction possible—balancing accuracy, beauty, and longevity. We use archival photography, an 11-colour fine art printing process, museum-quality papers and canvases, and careful proofing and colour adjustments. This ensures your reproductions not only look stunning but also stand the test of time.

Summary for Artists:

Reproductions will always differ slightly from originals due to the differences between pigments, digital colour models, inks, substrates, and lighting. What we can guarantee is a professional, faithful, and long-lasting reproduction that does justice to your art and communicates its beauty to a wider audience.