

Guidelines for Commissions

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Description:

Amy Clarke Moore creates photo-realistic beaded portraits upon commission. Using a spiraling back stitch, she stitches very small Japanese glass seed beads over a photograph until it is completely covered with beads. She then mounts the piece and slightly stuffs it with wool to provide dimension. The piece is framed with no glass.

Payment:

Beadwork is priced at \$50 per square inch—this includes a standard black frame (no glass) and shipping via Fed Ex to the purchaser. Most pieces are about 5 x 6 inches or 30 square inches, and cost about \$1,500. Tax is included in the price. In most cases, the artist is able to design a piece to fit the purchaser's budget. Keep in mind that the smaller the image, the more difficult it is to achieve fine detail.

A deposit of \$50 is due at the beginning of the design work. Once a design has been agreed upon, 50% of the finished price is due before beginning beadwork; the remaining amount due at completion.

Rights:

Artist retains the copyright to the image.

The artist reserves the right to refuse to do a commission. If design work has begun, she will refund the deposit.

If the purchaser decides to withdraw the commission before the beading has started, but after the design work is complete, then the purchaser forfeits the \$50 deposit.

Designing:

The first 5 hours of design work are included in the price of the piece, design work beyond the first 5 hours are charged at a rate of \$25 an hour.

The artist will work from a photograph provided by the purchaser as long as the purchaser took the photograph (and gives the artist permission in writing to use and modify the image) or has obtained written permission to use the photograph from the photographer.

The artist will work with the purchaser to find a photograph that will work well for the bead embroidery process. It should have strong contrast, intriguing color, and the important details (such as defining lines or the iris of the eye) shouldn't be smaller than the size of a bead (the beads are about 1mm wide). Understand that the piece will be transformed with beads—it will not look exactly like the photograph. These pieces are

like miniature mosaics—the colors are distinct close up and mixed by the eye when the viewer steps away. Visit the artist’s Flickr set called “Making Pieces” (at www.flickr.com/photos/sixswansflying/sets/72157606485840582/) to see before, during and after images of the bead embroidery process.

Communication:

The artist will communicate mostly through email so that she can send images. She may choose to upload the designed pieces to Flickr or another photo viewing program that allows comments so that the purchaser can view and comment on designs and the beaded piece.

Timeline:

Most pieces take 3 to 6 months to complete. Understand that this is a labor-intensive process. It takes the artist 3 hours to complete 1 square inch of the spiraling backstitch bead embroidery. An average size piece of 30 square inches can take 90 hours to bead. The artist then frames and photographs the piece before shipping it to the purchaser. The artist works full time (she is the editor of *Spin-Off* magazine published by Interweave Press in Loveland, Colorado), and is a mother and wife. Before design work begins, the artist and the purchaser will establish a reasonable time frame for delivery of the work. If the artist is unable to complete the commission within the agreed upon timeframe, then she will give a 10% discount on the final price of the piece.

Caring for the beadwork:

The artist uses materials (glass seed beads, silk noil, fine sheep’s wool, archival paper, and silamide thread) that are high quality and archival. The photograph is printed on archival paper that is eventually covered in beads. Wool is used to stuff the piece and create the three-dimensional effect when framed. The artist uses beads that are colorfast, but the work should not be displayed in direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Pieces can be cleaned by vacuuming or washing with a mild soap and warm water (after it is removed from the frame), if needed and the artist is willing to assist with this. If cared for properly, the piece should survive many, many generations.