

Tips on commissioning a painting



Consider the size of the piece, the size when framed, what medium, when its needed by and how long it will take the artist to complete.

Ask if the artist is happy to work from photos. If sitting for a portrait ask what happens if sitter is unable to attend or, for example, if children cannot sit still.

Take a look at the artists work and see if you like their style.

If oil, ask how long before it can be shipped as they take a while to dry.

Ask the artist to keep you in the loop with their ideas for the design and layout and a rough of the work so you can make sure its heading in the right direction and you and the artist both understand what is expected.

Keep communications open - and if in doubt ask. Ask to see the work while its being painted.

Does the artist require a deposit and when will the payment be expected in full.

Ask who owns the copyright and is there a right to refuse the work.

Ask if the artist has an art commission contract, if so ask to see a copy.

Tips for animal portraits

If commissioning a portrait take a number of photos in the desired pose and take a couple of the desired background -if you prefer a detailed background other than the primary pose photo.

If possible take an additional close-up to assure more accurate eye, skin and colouring - the character comes from the eyes... this will be especially helpful if the chosen pose is close up.

If several source photos are to be combined, try to take them in similar lighting. If possible get the shot taken out of doors on a bright day. If an animal portrait, try to get the animal against a contrasting background as this helps to distinguish the shape, how the ears lie and shape of leg etc. Get face to face if possible.

Three dogs This is a photo of three hardworking dogs and the pose is ideal - unfortunately it is difficult to use as the shot points down on their heads. If you can get eye to eye with them so much the better.

Don't forget, If the photo was taken by a professional photographer please check copyright.

Be careful if sending valuable or irreplaceable images. Ask if all images will be returned promptly.

