

HOW TO PRINT YOUR DOWNLOADED ART

CYNSATIONAL LIFE





WELCOME!

Hi there — I'm Cynthia, artist, creator, and printable art enthusiast behind Cynsational Life.

I create printable art designed to bring beauty, calm, and a little joy into your everyday spaces — while making it simple and affordable to style your home in a way that reflects you.

Printable art makes it easy to refresh your space anytime — but knowing where and how to print your files can make all the difference in how your art looks on the wall. That's exactly why I put this guide together.

Inside, you'll find my favorite printing resources and paper options, so you can confidently turn your digital art into beautiful, ready-to-frame pieces you'll love seeing in your home.


Let's get your art off the screen and onto your walls — beautifully.



WHERE TO PRINT YOUR ART

You've found the perfect printable art (yay!) — now it's time to turn your digital file into a beautiful, real-world print you'll love hanging on your wall.

There are lots of great printing options available — from quick local shops to high-end fine art labs. Here's a friendly guide to help you pick the best printer for your needs.



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU PRINT

Before you choose where to print, take a quick moment to think about:

Print Quality: Look for high-resolution printing (300 DPI or higher) and archival inks for rich color and long-lasting beauty.

Paper Type: Matte, fine art, or watercolor papers give your art a high-end, professional feel.

Sizing Options: Can they print at the exact size of your file? Are custom sizes available?

Framing Options: Do you want your print ready-to-hang or will you frame it yourself?

Shipping Time: Are you in a hurry? Some printers offer same-day service, while others take a bit longer but deliver higher quality.

Budget: Prices can vary — you don't have to break the bank, but investing a little more often means better results.

Convenience: Is their ordering process simple? Do they offer customer support if you need help?

Where You'll Hang It: Peel-and-stick options are great for renters or temporary spaces, while gallery-quality prints are perfect for long-term display.

Reputation & Reviews: Check what other customers say. Many printers share real customer photos to help you get a feel for the final product.



POPULAR ONLINE PRINTERS FOR ART

FINE ART & GALLERY-QUALITY PRINTERS (BEST FOR LONG-TERM DISPLAY)

Candela Fine Art Printing

Museum-quality giclée prints with pigment inks and fine art papers.

Exceptional color accuracy and archival longevity.

Perfect for high-end, permanent wall art.

The Stackhouse Printery

Specializes in archival giclée prints on fine art papers.

Beautiful texture and rich, vibrant colors.

Excellent option for creating collector-quality prints.

Nevada Art Printers

Premium fine art lab with expert file preparation.

Handles large format prints with incredible detail.

Great for statement pieces or oversized artwork.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTO LABS (HIGH QUALITY WITH MORE VARIETY)

Mpix

Excellent photo and wall art printing.

Great color reproduction and multiple paper choices.

Easy online ordering with fast turnaround.

Bay Photo & Nations Photo Lab

Canvas, metal, and fine art print options.

Consistently great quality and durable finishes.

Popular with photographers and artists alike.

Printique (formerly AdoramaPix)

Professional-level photo and art prints.

Offers albums, wall art, and framed prints.

Known for excellent service and color accuracy.



BUDGET-FRIENDLY & QUICK OPTIONS (GOOD FOR SMALLER PRINTS)

Printkeg

Very affordable large-format and poster printing.

Great way to test prints before committing to larger orders.

Artist-friendly pricing without sacrificing too much quality.

Vistaprint / GotPrint / CatPrint

General print services with wide format options.

Budget-friendly for casual art prints or seasonal decor.

Simple online ordering and quick turnaround.

Casual & Easy Options (Great for Renters or Temporary Spaces)

Mixtiles

Peel-and-stick photo tiles — no nails or tools needed.

Lightweight, easy to reposition, renter-friendly.

Colors and print quality are decent for casual spaces, but not archival.

Local Options:

FedEx Office, Staples, UPS Stores, and Library Print Centers

Good for everyday prints, smaller sizes, or quick one-off projects.

Usually best for basic paper stock rather than high-end art papers.

Other Easy Online Options

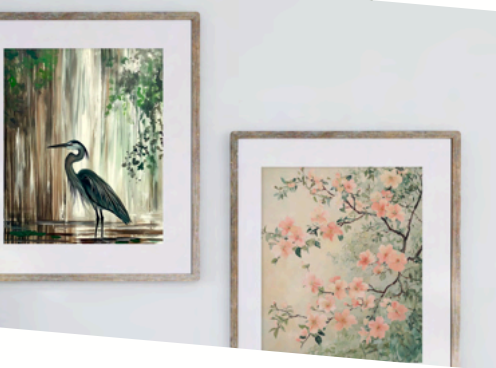
Walmart, Walgreens, Costco (Shutterfly), CVS and others

Upload photos and order online.

Delivery or pickup at store usually available.

Choose matte paper and finish for a more professional art fee.





WHAT THE HECK IS A GICLÉE PRINT?

PRONOUNCED: ZHEE-CLAY

(THE WORD COMES FROM THE FRENCH "GICLER," MEANING TO SPRAY.)

IN SIMPLE TERMS:

A GICLÉE PRINT IS A VERY HIGH-QUALITY, FINE ART PRINT MADE USING SPECIALIZED INKJET PRINTERS. WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL ISN'T JUST THAT IT'S "INKJET" — IT'S HOW AND WHAT GETS PRINTED:

PIGMENT-BASED INKS (INSTEAD OF CHEAPER DYE-BASED INKS), WHICH ARE MUCH MORE COLOR-STABLE AND FADE-RESISTANT.

ARCHIVAL-QUALITY PAPER OR CANVAS (ACID-FREE, OFTEN COTTON RAG OR FINE ART PAPER).

EXTREMELY HIGH RESOLUTION — USUALLY AT LEAST 300 DPI OR EVEN HIGHER.

WIDE COLOR GAMUT — RICHER, MORE ACCURATE COLORS THAT CLOSELY MATCH THE ARTIST'S ORIGINAL WORK.

WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE GICLÉE PRINTS:

MUSEUM OR GALLERY-QUALITY REPRODUCTION

LONG-LASTING (CAN LAST 100+ YEARS IF PROPERLY CARED FOR)

RICH, VIBRANT COLORS AND FINE DETAIL

EXCELLENT FOR ART COLLECTORS OR HIGHER-END HOME DÉCOR

PAPER TYPES & BORDERS: HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PRINT SETTINGS

The paper you choose is just as important as the printer. It can completely change how your art looks and feels. But don't worry — you don't need to be a paper expert.

Let's keep it simple:

Paper Types Made Simple

==> Matte Photo Paper

Soft, non-glare finish.

Great for wall art — no reflections, rich colors.

Works beautifully with most printable art styles.

My go-to recommendation for most printable art buyers.

==> Fine Art Paper (Archival / Cotton Rag / Watercolor Paper)

Museum-quality feel.

Subtle texture adds depth and elegance to the print.

Best for giclée prints, high-end displays, or special pieces.

Often labeled as: archival, 100% cotton, acid-free, textured.

==> Luster or Satin Photo Paper

A soft sheen — slightly glossy but not shiny.

Brings out color vibrancy.

Great for photography-style prints but less common for wall art.

==> Glossy Photo Paper

High shine, reflective surface.

Best for photos, not usually recommended for printable wall art.

Can cause glare when framed.

==> Premium Cardstock

Thick, heavy-weight paper.

Budget-friendly option for smaller prints or seasonal décor.

Less luxurious than fine art paper but still looks nice framed.



TO BORDER OR NOT TO BORDER, THAT IS THE QUESTION?

(SHOULD YOU ADD A BORDER?)

Ah, the border question — this comes up a lot with printable art!

Why add a border?

Creates a “matting” effect without needing an actual mat.

Helps if your frame has no mat insert.

Prevents important parts of your art from being too close to the edge.

Gives breathing room for the design when framed.

How much border should you add?

Standard: 0.5" to 1" border on all sides works well for most prints.

For larger prints (16x20" and up): 1" to 2" borders can feel more balanced.

If you're using a mat: No border is needed, as the mat creates visual spacing.

When NOT to add a border:

If your frame already includes a mat insert.

If your art file was designed with built-in white space.

If you're printing full-bleed (edge-to-edge) for a modern, frameless look.

Pro Tips for Borders & Printing

Always double-check your printer's guidelines — some printers automatically add borders, others don't.

If your printable art file doesn't include a border, many print services let you add one during upload.

For fine art labs, you may see options like "borderless," "small border," or "large border" — select based on your framing plan.

Cynsational Tip:

If you're ever in doubt: a small border is a safe bet — it gives your art breathing room and frames beautifully.



READY TO PRINT SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL?

Look at you — armed with paper wisdom, printer picks, and the confidence to bring your walls to life.

Printable art isn't just convenient — it's a fun, creative way to refresh your space without the stress (or the splurge). Whether you're going for cozy and calm or bright and bold, you can create a home that feels like you — one beautiful print at a time.

And if you're ready for art that prints like a dream and adds joy to your everyday, come explore my collection at [Cynsational Life](#). I've got calming neutrals, cheerful color pops, and a little something for every season and style.

Click [here](#) to browse the collection

Your walls (and your inner decorator) will thank you.

Stay creative — and have fun!

💖 Cindy

