

Giclee (zhee-clay) – translated as “to squirt or spray”

This term was coined by Graham Nash and Jack Duganne from Nash Editions back in the early 90's. They were using an Iris Graphics 3047 ink-jet printer and Jack Duganne wanted to differentiate their prints from the public's perception of cheap home inkjet printing. He scoured a French dictionary for a “cool sounding word” and came up with ‘Giclee’.

The original IRIS 3047 inkjet printer purchased by Graham Nash now resides in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

All giclee's can be classified as inkjet prints, however not all inkjet prints can be classified as Giclee.

Giclee's are distinguished by three important factors.

1. They are printed with a Professional Large Format Printer.
2. They are printed with pigments as opposed to dyes.
3. They are printed onto an archival substrate that supports long lasting prints.

The image stability of pigment printing is superior to that of any other method of printing, including traditional silver-halide or metal-based. A pigment particle is less susceptible to destructive environmental elements than a dye molecule.

Serious art collectors or artists insist on Gallery quality prints and Giclee printing is the best of the best.