

## Commission Process.

This is a brief outline as to the process of commissioning a portrait, or work of art, to give a rough idea of what to expect.

Initially I will want to meet the subject, to take photos and to get a feel for their character. I find that only very rarely can I work from photos other people have taken, as what may be a good photo, is not necessarily a great reference image for painting.

We will then discuss the size of piece you would like, and at that stage the cost. I ask clients to sign a contract and pay a deposit of 30%. This is non refundable.

In the event of a waiting list, and currently my waiting list is around six months, payment of the deposit secures the clients place on the list.

Depending on the size and complexity of the painting I may do some initial sketches for composition. The client can then decide which composition best suits the subject, although I will also advise from a technical point of view. You are very welcome at any stage to come and view progress, I am always delighted to stop for a coffee!

When I consider the painting is near completion, I will email an image for approval, at this stage we can make minor changes to colour, finish etc but I cannot make major compositional changes without restarting! If possible I prefer clients to come to the studio, as it is very hard to convey scale and accuracy in photos taken on a phone in the studio.

Once the painting is completed I send another photo for final approval. The client will then pay the balance of the paintings, either in one instalment, or over several. I do offer a framing service, which can be discussed at this stage.

I will varnish the painting and the ideally it will remain in the studio to dry for a week or two, although I appreciate sometimes deadlines do not allow this. On collection the painting must NOT be wrapped or covered in any way, as paintings take around six months to fully dry, and contact on the surface will damage the varnish layer.

Many paintings, especially if the subject is dark coloured, will require another a further coat of varnish at a later stage as black paint is very absorbent and areas will become matt. I can do this, or any reputable framer should be happy to do this for you.

I do hope you find commissioning a work enjoyable, I will do very my best to ensure you have a work of art you will love for years to come.