

TYPES OF CANVASES

There are many types of canvases from true painted art to open editions coated with textured vinyl the pattern of canvas. There many ways to create a canvas appearance, involving an assortment of mounting techniques and materials. This chart has been designed to help identify the names, type, character, handling and mounting tolerances of the most familiar types.

ID/Name	Character	Suggested Mounting	Framing
Traditional Painted Canvas	Raw or prepared canvas painted with oils or acrylics	Stretched onto stretcher bars with keys at the corners for tension adjustments	Deep moulding or float canvas frame
Traditional Painted Canvas	Raw or prepared canvas painted with oils or acrylics (Rothko, Kline, Pollack)	Gallery wrapped around deep strainers and displayed with the sides visible	Gallery hung with no frame, sides may be painted black or the image wraps around
Gicleé	Essentially same as above, but often limited edition high end	Preservation treatment as limited edition	Glazed and framed, may or not be stretched
Canvas Textured Photograph or Offset litho	The image has a clear film layer applied to the surface that is imprinted under heat and pressure with a new tactile textural of canvas or linen	Seal Exhibitex surface texturing, mounted to solid substrate	Mounted to substrate may be framed in shallow moulding Generally not stretched
Offset Litho on paper	Original canvas art replicated as open or limited edition images which show the visual texture or look of canvas only	Dry, wet, spray or pressure-sensitive mounted as desired	Frame of choice
Offset Print with textured surface laminate	Open edition image with surface over laminate to create the illusion of a canvas or linen image	Mounted and surface laminated with hot vinyl or cold polyester materials onto substrate	Framed in standard noncanvas depth moulding
Offset Litho on Canvas	Very difficult to achieve because of registration issues during printing	Stretched to bars	Framed as traditional canvas
Canvas Transfer-Photo or Print	In-house Image vinyl laminated and mounted as canvas look-alike Must be copyright free	HA canvas in natural or white used as substrate in dry mount press. Stretched or substrate mounted	Frame of choice They may be difficult to stretch and have a tendency to sag
Canvas Transfer-Print	Commercially produced Traditional canvas look-alike, Stripped and applied to canvas	Stretched or mounted to substrate	Deep moulding or float canvas frame
Illusionary Box	Textually surface laminated image onto 1/2" foam box	Heat laminate over print or photo mounted to rigid thick foam	No frame
Digital Canvas-Pigmented Inkjet	A digitally receptive canvas with inks applied to replicate the original painting, though they look like the real thing they do not act the same	If stretched many inks will crack or flake at the corners exposing the white canvas beneath, dry or p-s mounting to rigid substrate	Frame to accommodate mounting. If stretched use canvas frame, not float frame. No gallery mounting
Gallery Mount Canvases	May be digital inks applied to canvas or transferred offset prints, prints are being sold with allowances for deep wraps	Determine ink tolerances first, then wrap over deep strainer or 2x2" or 2x3" wood, difficult to stretch Check with manufacturer	Designed for float frames or Gallery wrapped no frame
Plaque	Open edition poster applied with heat and pressure to a decorative routed painted wood board	Surface laminated and dry mounted to wood with permanent adhesive	No frame Much like decoupage of the 70s

This is only a very basic chart designed as a starting point for better understanding the variables of canvas materials and their assorted similarities and differences. This chart is in no way meant to include every option or material combination, but rather represent a general rough listing of the types of canvases and how they have evolved in our industry.

NOTE: Never apply spray coatings to an upscale limited edition digital image, photo or canvas of any kind as a service for a customer as protection as a substitute for glazing. Only the manufacturer or original artist may coat an image. Treat it as you would a pastel. When laminates are used over images as a glass substitute or for canvas transferring, it is because they are open editions and considered display images, regardless of digital, photo or offset lithograph.