

Commission Guideline

Welcome to my Commission Guide!

This document will endeavour to clarify the steps that will be taken in the commission process so you can gain a better understanding of the investment you are considering. After years of creating commissioned artworks, I am excited to outline the process from start to finish as well as how I personally go about painting artwork for commissions.

I have been painting consistently since my teen years and I feel very grateful to continue to have the opportunity to create artworks that find their way into the homes of people and places all around Australia (and the world!). After a busy couple of years of creating commissions, I was motivated to create this document to answer some frequently asked questions.

Please find in the following pages details about my commission process:

- The types of commissions I take on.
- The process: what to expect and what you will need to provide.
- Pricing guideline. How I price my artwork commissions.

Nicole Black



Types of commissions...

When assessing the types of commissions I will take on, there are a couple of things I like to consider. The most important aspect is whether or not the style is inline with my work. Most of the time I am approached to recreate a piece that I have painted in the past.

I believe that considering this will ensure that I put the best energy into your commission. For example, I do love animals but I would rather point you in the direction of someone who specialises in pet portraits if you are looking for a pet portrait. Finding an artist that is creating the kind of work you already like, I believe, is the best key to success when commissioning an artwork.



Details of a recently commissioned watercolour artwork.

Examples of the commissions I can work on:

- Anything with botanical elements especially around Australian Natives, flora and fauna.
- Abstract artwork.
- Landscapes, seascapes, gardens etc.

What I am not currently accepting commissions in:

- Pet Portraits
- Family Portraits

If you are just starting to look into what you would like to have commissioned, I would suggest looking at my recent work for inspiration via my instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/bynicoleblack/>

Screen shot the pieces that you are drawn to and consider why this is. This will help form your language for the guidelines and brief for the commission. For example you may consider:

- Colours palette.
- Mood of the artwork.
- Theme: landscapes, botanical etc.
- Size of the work

Whilst these are just some of the broader genres that I work within, I am always open to discussing your ideas! Some of the best projects I have worked on have come from someone reaching out and asking to bring their idea to life.

The Process

Once we have confirmed the subject and the direction of the commission, I will arrange for a catch up meeting to discuss the details. If you live in Adelaide this could be coffee meeting in person or a quick 30 minute zoom meeting.

Before our meeting I will ask that you do the following:

- Screen shot examples of my current work
- Have an idea about colours.
- Approximate dimensions of the piece.
- If the work is for a specific space, images of that space.
- Any other key details that are of significance.

I will go away and quote on the project based on the details discussed in our meeting.

I will create rough sketches and dimensions of the work. This will also include a colour palette. (Please allow a week for me to get back to you).

If you would like to proceed a 50% deposit is required to commence the project. Payment plans are negotiable with the final amount due when the work is complete.

Once initial sketches and colour palette have been approved, it's time to get painting!

The sketches will be rough to leave room for the art to evolve organically. I will give you updates at 75% of the way through the process for feedback. Commissions will take between 6-8 weeks to complete (depending on the size of the work)

Pricing

Pricing is one of the more elusive things in the art world and even more difficult to specify in a one-fits-all model. However, during my time working on commissions and commercial jobs, I have come up with a couple of guidelines to clarify the structure.

Here are a few things that I keep in mind when creating your personalised quote:

- As a general starting point I work on dimensions. For example, a painting on canvas that measures 50cm x 50cm creates a "UCM" of 100 (50+50)
- Whilst this is a good starting point some projects are more complex than others. For example a small watercolour artwork might be smaller in size but take as many hours as a large abstract canvas (this is why the hourly rate does not always convert well)
- The medium and surface. Oil paints can be more expensive than acrylic and take longer to dry.
- The cost of materials including framing (if required).
- What I am currently selling my artworks for. Commissions take a lot more planning than my other pieces and therefore will take on a higher costing (approximately 20% more)
- If you need the work done quickly, a premium is added to the final cost.
- Any delivery fees if outside of Adelaide.

Pricing for commissions is inline with prices I am currently selling work for in galleries. I am more than happy to work on payment plans to make this investment as affordable as possible.



Final thoughts

Creating commissions over the past couple of years has allowed me to collaborate with a number of clients to bring their ideas to life.

I have had the privilege of connecting with the spaces and stories of individuals in the process of creating these commissions, and each has been a unique and exciting journey for me as an artist. Because I treasure these opportunities so greatly, I am conscious of overloading my schedule and rushing your piece. As a result, I am currently only able to commit to *one commission per month*.

As an artist and collector of art, I believe that this quote by Picasso reigns true: *"Art washes away from the soul the dust from everyday life"*

If you have any further questions that have not been answered in these pages, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can also view previous commissions and testimonials on the commissions page on my website here: <https://www.nicoleblack.com.au/commissions>

I am excited at the prospect of creating a commissioned piece for your space! You can contact me via hello@nicoleblack.com.au to start the process.

- Nicole Black

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