



# AARDENBURG IMAGING & ARCHIVES

## Participation in the Digital Print Research Program

Participants in the Aardenburg Digital Print Research Program sponsor the real world image permanence testing of one or more prints from Aardenburg's Digital Print Study Collection. We send you a digitally mastered print of an image that can be chosen from our online gallery (coming soon). You display and enjoy it for one year at which time we provide an easy-return shipping box to retrieve the print for analysis. The print or another one of your choice is then returned to you, and we begin another year of study! We may ask you to describe some aspects of your display environment to help us with our research, and we keep in touch with you and share results mainly by e-mail.

The cost of sponsoring a print has two parts. A one-time deposit fee on each sponsored print costs \$275-\$400 depending on print size. It covers Aardenburg's replacement value for the print, framing materials, and environmental data loggers. The print deposit is not refundable, but it is transferable to other prints you may choose to borrow from the Aardenburg Study Collection. Participants also fund the annual print evaluation cost at \$125 per year. This annual cost covers the print analysis, maintenance of the data loggers, shipping and handling (U.S. and Canada), and an annual royalty that we give to our contributing artists for each study print in circulation. By continuing to support the print evaluation costs once a year, participants can keep a print as long as they wish, or they can exchange it for another print in the study collection when it comes back to AaI&A for its yearly "check-up."

Participants have access to a growing variety of digitally mastered print processes which they can enjoy in their home or office environment while simultaneously helping AaI&A with the real-world image permanence research. All study prints and environmental monitors used in the Digital Print Research Program remain the property of AaI&A. The prints are not signed by the artist, and they are not for sale. This decision was necessary in order to ultimately retain the study prints for our archives and to keep the overall participation costs as low as possible. However, serious print collectors can also purchase signed prints from Aardenburg Imaging & Archives. The signed prints are unique because they are made exclusively for Aardenburg Imaging & Archives by our contributing artists using the same materials and processes that go into the unsigned prints in our study collection. Proceeds from signed prints also help to support our research and pay standard commissions to our contributing artists. Aardenburg research and our extensive materials and process documentation will add to a rich historical understanding of the signed prints and the artists and printmakers who make them. Smart collectors will take advantage of the unique opportunity to collect our artists' signed prints while also sponsoring a matching study print that yields personalized information about their own real-world display environments.

The environmental data loggers are set to record light, heat, and humidity data for a little more than one year until their storage capacity is full. When the print is returned to AaI&A annually, we download the environmental data, evaluate the print for possible changes, and reset the data loggers for their next year of recording. Then we return the print or another print of your choice to you and another year of real world testing begins. As noted above, AaI&A provides the prepaid shipping box to make the annual return easy. Your primary job is to simply display and enjoy your Aardenburg prints anywhere in your home or office! If you wish to exchange study prints sooner than our customary annual return, we ask only that the additional shipping and handling fees be covered.

Test results are made available to our participants and may also be publicly disclosed, but our participants' personal information remains strictly confidential. Aardenburg does not share your personal information with any other parties.

rev: 2007-09-25

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