

oliver pyle fine art



Commissioning a Painting



South Beach, Springland
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www.oliverpyle.com



Commissioning Artwork

Commissioning a painting is a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding process. It gives you, the client, an ability to work with the artist to create a piece of art that not only encapsulates your vision but is quite unique to you. Through your conversations with the artist and your involvement in the creative process the finished painting becomes very special.

There can be many reasons for commissioning a work of art – a close connection with a place for example, missing out on a painting that you saw in a gallery, a favourite holiday location perhaps, or simply a gift for a special person on a special occasion. As a landscape artist it is almost inevitable that the work I am commissioned to do includes the countryside, the coast and sometimes the city. Often characters are included, giving the scene some personal context. With this subject matter I am very much on 'home turf,' but never be afraid to ask for something a little bit different; I have been 'off-piste' with several commissions before, and will no doubt do so again! Please bear in mind however that watercolour will be my medium of choice.

The purpose of this guide is to help you to understand what to expect, and what is involved when you commission a painting, and how we will work together.

The Artist

Oliver has established himself as a successful landscape artist, working exclusively in watercolour. Entirely self-taught, his work is to be found in collections across the country and internationally, selling through UK galleries and online. Oliver's art is much in demand and now features on greetings cards in The Oliver Pyle Collection for the UK's oldest and most prestigious Fine Art card brand, Medici Cards.

Through Oliver's work we explore the impact of light, the weather, and the seasons and how these combine to achieve paintings that are evocative and atmospheric; "As a landscape artist my inspiration comes from being outdoors where light, smells, sounds, and textures all combine to deliver an outstanding sensory experience - let's call it 'atmosphere' if you like. My aim is never to simply describe or illustrate a scene, rather to create a painting that provides an experience of the place. Watercolour is the perfect medium for capturing the vicissitudes of the British climate and allows me to make a spontaneous response to the delicate Northern light that is with us for much of the year. "

The Commission Process

I have established a simple process that helps ensure that the commission will be positive experience for both of us. The old adage states that 'good neighbours have strong fences,' and my experience is that it pays to have a framework that we both understand. It is broadly as follows:

1) INITIAL IDEAS. You can send me an email or call me to let me know what you have in mind and then we can talk in more detail over the phone, or ideally meet up, to set some parameters. As a guide it is useful to have the following in mind:

- Size
- Colours
- Framing - where it is going to hang
- Deadline
- Budget

Any reference material that you have (photos for example) is always useful. Have a look through the paintings on my website and tell me which of my paintings you are especially fond of (and which ones you don't like) - it gives me a stronger understanding of what you want your painting to look like. At this stage we can discuss specifics such as seasons, weather, the inclusion of figures.....

2) PRICE QUOTE. Once we have agreed on the main parameters then I will provide you with a price quote. This takes into account the painting of course, and any additional time required to create it. For example, if the only way that I could create a fantastic painting of your holiday cottage in The Cotswolds were by going there myself then I would factor the additional time and costs into the overall price.

3) DEPOSIT. Having settled on a price that works for us both I will send you a simple agreement that sets out the scope of work, price and payment terms. In most instances a non-refundable deposit of 50% is payable before I start work, and this acts as your acceptance of the terms. The balance is paid on completion.

4) DEVELOPMENT & SKETCHING. Admin completed, I then look at any reference material you have either provided or is more widely available, making site visits as and when the assignment dictates. I will make a sketch (or several) for your review so that you can see that my interpretation of what you have told me matches up with what you originally had in mind. It invariably leads to a better painting, but also helps avoid awkward moments later! The key to a satisfying commission is good communication.... it is important that we are in touch as the work takes shape.

5) DELIVERY & PAYMENT. Once the painting has been completed I will send you a digital image of the painting, and the outstanding balance will be paid upon your approval, prior to delivery which follows within three working days (or whatever we agree.)



Case Studies

CORFE CASTLE, DORSET

I painted this wonderful scene in Dorset as a commission for a graduation present. My client's son was due to receive his PhD in the study of mediaeval fortification, a subject that has been his lifelong interest having been inspired as a child by his holidays to Purbeck and the impressive ruins of Corfe Castle. The brief was to capture the castle in some detail but in such a way that demonstrated its dominance over the locality, and its strategic position plugging the gap in the Purbeck hills. The season was to be summer as this was when the family would visit the area each year.

Having made a number of pencil sketches for my client to review we both felt that this composition captured all the aspects required of the brief.



'A Beautiful Evening, Corfe Castle'

39cm x 25cm Millford paper

RHOSILLI BAY, PEMBROKESHIRE

My clients asked me to create a painting of their children and family dog playing on this beautiful beach in Wales. I worked from a photograph provided with the intention of capturing the scene as closely as possible, albeit with greater focus on the children. It was important to preserve a sense of emptiness to the beach and capture what was a very pleasant summer's day.

I made several quick figure sketches in pencil until we were happy with their position and activity on the beach, and then a small pen and wash painting to bring all the elements together. Some fine tuning was needed for several aspects of the composition and these were taken into account in the final painting.



'Among The Rock Pools'

52cm x 38cm Millford paper

Testimonials

CORFE CASTLE – BRIAN G

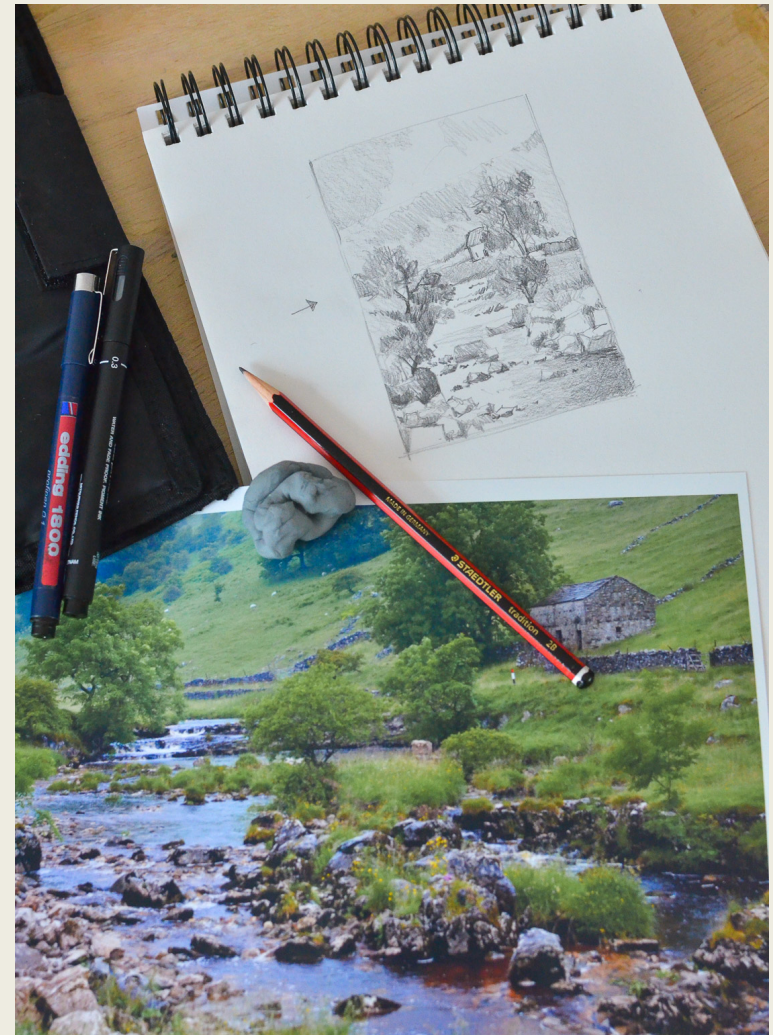
“Just a quick note to let you know the painting arrived safe and sound. It looks fabulous! We've decided not to frame it rather let our Son decide on what he wants..... Again many thanks for what you've done, the quality and importantly for me the ease of which it has come about.”

YORKSHIRE DALES – MICHAEL & PATRICIA F

“Having seen Oliver’s work exhibited at the Ashdown Forest Centre we contacted him to ask if he could paint us and our dogs walking on the Forest. We were so happy with the results that we asked him to do another two paintings from photos we took in the Yorkshire Dales. Oliver has always been a delight to work with, listening carefully to our wishes and professional and prompt in his communications. His work speaks for itself.”

STUDLAND BAY – LOUISE W

“I commissioned a painting from Oliver. It was of South Beach, Studland, one of my favourite places. Great guy to work with, communication and service excellent. Painting fabulous, translates my vision into reality.....”



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