

What is a Serigraph?

From an early age, Thomas Kinkade was fascinated with printmaking and the many different print processes used over history. As a boy, he experimented with silk screening and as an established artist eventually began using silk screened sketches as remarques on the backs of his paintings. For years Thom planned to release serigraph editions of his work, now the Thomas Kinkade Company is pleased to be able to fulfill that dream and release the first Thomas Kinkade Serigraph Edition.

Serigraphs are a highly respected print making technique in the art world. Unlike photographic reproductions such as giclée, serigraphs actually involve recreating the original artwork by hand. The serigrapher prints each individual color of the original, one color at a time, resulting in an exacting hand created reproduction. For each color in the original artwork, a film is cut, screens are exposed, presses are set and pigmented inks are mixed. Each color must be applied layer over layer with lengthy drying periods in-between. No more than two colors can be applied each day, so a 100-color print will take two and a half months from the first screen to the last.

As each color is printed, the registration or alignment of the print to the silkscreen must be in exactly the same place. This is considered the most important part of fine art serigraphy, because each color must be laid down in the exact place needed on the canvas on every print made. In the end, this ancient silk screening process produces a rich, unique, handcrafted serigraph that faithfully reproduces the original with pigmented inks that are unsurpassed in longevity.

Serigraphs will be released in limited quantities as available and in the edition sizes noted on the Certificate of Authenticity.

What is a Serigraph?

- An elite stencil printmaking process, which is different than a photographic giclée process.
- A masterful recreation of the original artwork by hand.
- Highly durable and made with pigmented inks to resistant to fading.

Serigraphy requires diligence and handcraftsmanship for each print and is a very time consuming, multilayered process. The integrity and authenticity of the Serigraph is found in its processes as explained below:

- A stencil or screen is created for each individual color in the original. Typically, 80-90 separate colors will make up one painting; hence 80-90 different screens are used resulting in 80-90 different layers of ink placed in various places on the canvas.

- Once a screen is created, a sheet of high quality, archival canvas or paper is then inserted under the screen and a special pigmented ink is poured along the edge of the frame that holds the screen

- Areas, which do not print, are blocked in each of the stencil screens allowing ink to pass through the screen to specific areas of the painting, while prohibiting it from flowing through to other areas of the canvas.

- A flat fanlike tool is pulled from back-to-front along the screen pushing the ink through, resulting in a direct transfer of the image from screen to the canvas or paper.

- Only one color can be applied at a time.

- The canvas or paper must be fully dry before another color can be added.
- Due to drying times, only 2 colors can be applied in one day.
- This process is repeated layer on top of layer until the entire original print is recreated.
- Complex works of art, with hundreds of colors, can take over 6 weeks or longer to produce.

