

# Schweitzer Studios Online Commissions Guide

First of all, thank you for your interest in commissioned work! I've drawn all kinds of subjects but keep coming back to animals. There's just so much personality in these creatures we share the planet with. I'm honored that you're thinking about ordering a custom illustration. This guide is designed to shed more light on the entire process.



Cass



Brady

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# 1 Choosing a Subject

Although the majority of commissions depict beloved pets, you may also request a custom illustration of a wildlife animal. Reference photos are required for pet portraits but optional for the wildlife route.



Cheeto  
3/4 pose, strong lighting, and high definition, captures his personality.



Mystery Online Cat  
Blurry, too dark, weak lighting... and a little scary

# 2 Choosing a Photo

A strong reference photo is the key to a beautiful portrait! All pet commissions require at least one photo to work from. The final illustration will be based on that image. I look for 4 main elements when selecting references:

**Lighting** — A combination of light and shadow creates a greater sense of depth and makes for a more exciting portrait!

**Pose** — I prefer three-quarter pose photos taken from your pet's height, since they tend to be more dynamic than head-on portraits.

**Essence** — You know your pet much better than I do! Submit photos that capture your animal's personality and character.

**Quality:** High definition photos are a must! Blurry photos prevent me from zooming in to see all the important little details.

# Slate

My favorite way to draw. These illustrations are hand drawn on slabs of slate using charcoal and pastels. When working on slate, the natural ridges and shape of the stone become part of the artwork itself! I recommend this style to anyone looking for a truly unique, rustic portrait.

## Pricing

4 x 4" square tile*	\$130
4 x 6" slab	\$150
6 x 8" slab	\$225
12 x 12" square panel*	\$325

Please note: these prices are for single-subject portraits. Multiple subjects can be drawn on one piece of slate at an additional cost.

\*straight edges



## Protecting Your Slate Artwork

Each portrait is sprayed with a varnish in order to protect the illustration and prevent fading or smudging. That being said, the artwork is not meant to be touched and should be kept indoors.

It goes without saying that slate slabs have sharp edges (they are rocks, after all). Make sure to handle the artwork with care and use the included metal stand to display the piece.

# Slate Examples

They say a picture is worth a thousand words... here are some examples of past commissioned work, along with the main reference photo I used for each portrait. Feel free to zoom in and see all the details!



Portraits of Piča and Cheeto, created on 4 x 4" slate tiles



A Memorial of Frank  
4 x 6" Slab



Custom Rabbit  
4 x 6" Slab



Tuchi  
12 x 12" Square Panel

# Black Paper

I also offer custom illustrations on black paper for those looking for a more traditional approach. All commissions are created on premium black stock using professional-grade pastels, colored pencils, and charcoal. The black surface allows for striking highlights and a beautiful sense of light.



## Pricing

9 x 12".....	\$300
11 x 14".....	\$350
20 x 24".....	\$600

As with the slate, these prices are for single-subject portraits. Multiple subjects can be drawn together at an additional cost.

# Timeline

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## Get in Touch!

Shoot me an email at [SchweitzerStudiosOfficial@gmail.com](mailto:SchweitzerStudiosOfficial@gmail.com) to get in touch! Let me know what size and material you're interested in. If you'd like my advice with references, feel free to include those as well.



## Photos and Payment

We'll work together to find a reference photo that will yield a beautiful portrait. 50% of the total payment is required up front in order to lock in your spot. Acceptable payment methods are cash, check, Zelle, Venmo, and Square. Please note that prices listed are before tax and shipping. Card purchases will be subject to a 3% convenience fee.



## Sit Back and Relax

Voila! Now you're able to sit back and relax. The turnaround time is generally around two weeks, but I'll give you a more specific timeline based on my current workload.



## Shipping

Upon completion, the drawing will be shipped straight to your door. In-person pick-up is also an option if you live locally.

The portrait will be shipped in protective, waterproof packaging to ensure that it arrives in perfect condition.