

RESERVE PRINTS FOR COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

It is now widely recognized that chromogenic prints (also called c-prints or type-c prints), inkjet prints (including pigment prints), and other color processes are subject to noticeable fading or color shifts within as little as ten to twenty years when stored under normal conditions, even in the dark.

As a hedge against those changes, it is the Museum's policy to acquire a back-up copy or reserve print of any color photograph purchased or accepted as a gift. The reserve print should be made using the same materials and techniques as the first print. The price paid by the Museum for the reserve print is intended to cover production costs only, typically \$100-400 for a print. While the first print is stored, exhibited, and made available to the public in the Study Room for Photographs along with the rest of the photographic collection, the reserve print is held back from exhibition and when possible, placed in long-term cold storage, where the process of deterioration is significantly slowed.

The Museum deems the reserve print to have no value and does not consider it an authentic and authorized work of art until and unless the first print is retired and destroyed. The reserve print should not count against the total of prints in a limited edition; for example, if the Museum purchases print 2/5 from an artist, the reserve print should also be numbered 2/5. The Museum pledges not to deaccession either print individually as a duplicate.

The Museum appreciates artists' assent to this arrangement as a way of making their work accessible to the public while also ensuring the preservation of the collections for future generations.