

# upside downs

houston vandergriff  
downs&towns.  
april 2021 catalog  
fine art print collection



## about the photographer

Houston Vandergriff is a travel photographer based in Knoxville, Tennessee. He has traveled far and wide and hopes his photographs will inspire others to live life to the fullest and to live life with compassion.

Houston has a simple vision with his photography: Make the world a better place.

You might have noticed - Houston has a chromosomal disorder known as Down Syndrome.

When Houston was born every doctor that appeared had to tell his parents worse and worse news: unable to breath, jaundice, low muscle tone, hole in his heart, open heart surgery, Down syndrome. Each specialist cited their own long list of things he might never do. Defying all dire predictions, today Houston is a globe-trotting travel photographer! By the age of 23 he has travelled to all 95 counties in his home state of Tennessee, to 48 of the 50 United States, to 5 Canadian provinces, and to 26 countries.

Because of the low muscle tone from Down syndrome, his speech is sometimes difficult to understand. Through his photography, he is able to share his view of the world - without actually saying a word. See his What People Are Saying page for other people's words about his work! Houston inspires others, both inside and outside of the disability community. He is a strong self-advocate who uses the universal language of the arts to push for inclusion. By sharing his gift of photography he is also sharing the gift of hope - the hope of knowing that everything is going to be ok. He also wants to help those who do not have the opportunity to visit the places he photographs to be able to experience them.

Houston earned his Certificate of Photography in 2019 and his Advanced Photography Certificate in 2020 after completing more than 200 hours of study through the University



of Tennessee Professional Programs. He is a member of the Southern Appalachia Nature Photographers (SANP) and the International Travel Writers and Photographers Alliance (ITWPA). He has donated his images for both domestic and international charitable initiatives.

Houston thrives on traveling to new locations, experiencing new cultures, and meeting new people. In the process, he has become an expert traveler. Numerous month-long trips have been spent with only a carry-on and a backpack for his camera. Planes, trains, buses, subways, or water taxis - he'll do whatever it takes to get to the next beautiful place.

When asked his favorite country?

He smiles and says, "All of 'em."

# about the april 2021 collection

## upside downs

Welcome to Downs & Towns' very first fine art Collection: Upside Downs.

The photos in this Collection have been carefully curated for you from Houston Vandergriff's extensive travels.

With Covid-19 dramatically changing travel plans for everyone, we\* (see Team Note below) made the most of our grounded time, going through travel photos of trips from the past four years. What we found is astounding. During each trip we knew Houston was taking lots of photos, but, WOW! we truly had no idea of exactly what he had captured. Most of these photos had been uploaded to a computer hard drive and left unseen.

Until now.

This Collection pulls from his largest body of work - travel photographs, including landscapes, street scenes, art, and architecture.





to make it easier to enjoy, we have further divided this upside downs collection into three specific collections:

## the sky's the limit down to earth fire & ice(land)

We prefer to be travelers rather than tourists and that is evident throughout Houston's photography. We may occasionally hop on a Big Red Bus to take the lazy way around a big city (yes, we're looking at you Paris and Lisbon!). We much prefer, though, to explore on our own and at our own pace. We may book the occasional hotel, but we generally stay in hostels, in online rentals through Airbnb™, in tents, and one time even on a boat (on a canal in Amsterdam).

Houston has taught us to slow down, savor the moments, and enjoy the journey. So, we do.

As a traveler, Houston has a unique way of connecting with people, cultures, and places. Language is no barrier. No one is a stranger. Nothing is unfamiliar.

Enjoy the view through Houston's eyes. See the fascinating world and all the amazing things in it. With nearly 100 images in this Upside Downs Collection, we are optimistic you will find the perfect piece - one that will take your breath away, one you simply can't live without, or one you must give to a friend who needs the inspiration.



# about the art the quality & sustainability promise

## **Sustainability Measures and Carbon Neutral Print Process:**

We readily acknowledge the controversy of carbon emissions generated by all forms of travel, and we don't have an answer to it. Please know we are very aware of this issue and have intentionally focused efforts in our production process.

**OUR COMMITMENT:** All Downs & Towns fine art prints are sustainably packaged and carbon neutral from end-to-end of the production cycle.

We are very excited to make this possible, and the credit really needs to go to the amazing efforts of our print studio partner, The Print Space UK, who has worked incredibly hard to carefully inspect every stage of the printing and shipping process, and make this sustainability a reality.



# our fine art paper process:

- Carbon neutral printing process by The Print Space UK
- Sustainably sourced paper
- Recyclable packaging and envelopes
- Recyclable cardboard stiffeners to protect prints in transit
- Paper made from 100% recycled fibers
- 100% recycled polypropylene corner protectors
- Recyclable bio-polyethylene frame protection
- Biodegradable bubble wrap

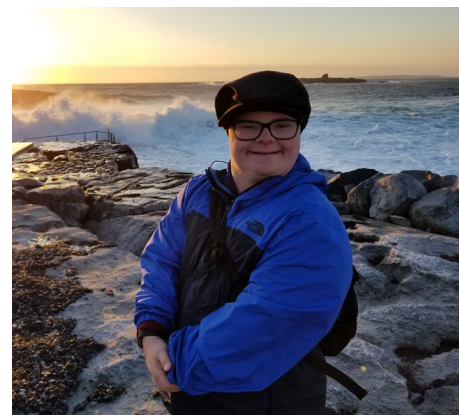
Your fine art piece will be professionally printed on Hahnemühle Bamboo paper. This natural, warm-toned, paper is made from 90% bamboo fibers and is one of the finest art papers available in the world. The environmentally friendly paper does not contain optical brighteners and conforms to ISO 9706/museum quality for highest age resistance. This award-winning paper is naturally acid- and lignin-free and stands out thanks to its soft, lightly textured felt structure.

**100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED:** If you are not satisfied, we will happily replace your print order after the unsatisfactory one has been torn up and recycled as well as the Certificate of Authenticity returned.

**FRAMING RATIOS:** All prints are standard ratios for easy, universal framing options.

# houston vandergriff

the photographer



# what people are saying

"Houston's photography is beautiful! He is a blessing to many!" - T. M.

"These photos are stunning. Now I want to be traveling even more! Thank you for sharing your work." - L. M.

**"houston, your story and achievements are remarkable. keep it up. you encourage every one of us who has the good fortune to know you. " - t. h.**

"Totally awesome young man! His talent is a blessing from above!" - C. B.

"Houston, you have an amazing talent. You are an extremely gifted young man. Your photos are out of this world and absolutely beautiful. Keep up the good work." - D. M.

"Inspiring work. Love all the way from India. Couldn't stop myself from letting you know how much I love it. Whenever you visit India it'll be a pleasure to host you. - R. P.

"Oh my goodness! His work is amazing. - R. M.

"God is using him to show His beauty." - A. L.

"Beautiful photos! You have an amazing talent." - C. W.

"He is an amazing young man and photographer! I want to travel with him!" - M. F.

**"houston has always broken down barriers and i just love his positivity."  
- C. C.**

**"hey man, you fully inspire me. love it. please keep going hard at it. saludos desde mexico. - s. m.**

"You are so impressive and inspiring! I am pregnant with a little boy who has Down syndrome and we already love him so much. Your work is wonderful! Thank you for sharing your story as well. - D. von P., Germany

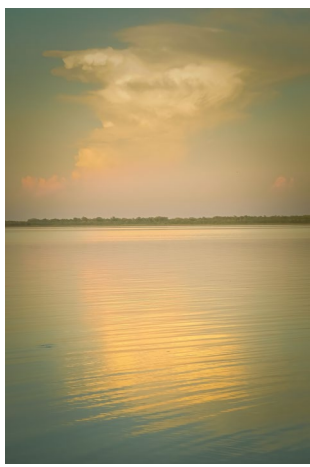
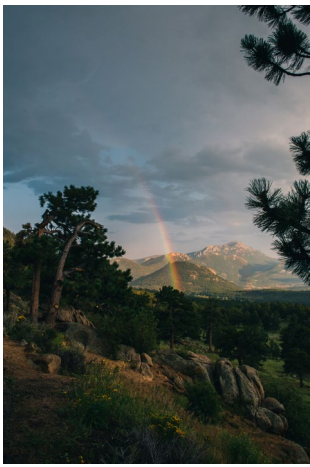
"Houston is such an accomplished young man. He has no fear of trying things and meets life head on! We could all learn from him." - A. H.

"Houston, I wish I had your ability to make people feel so at ease. You are so gifted!" - C. H.

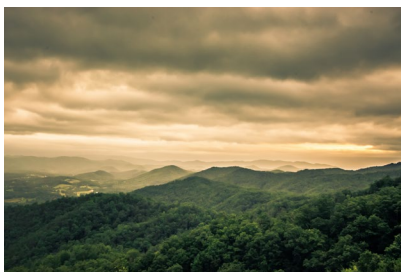
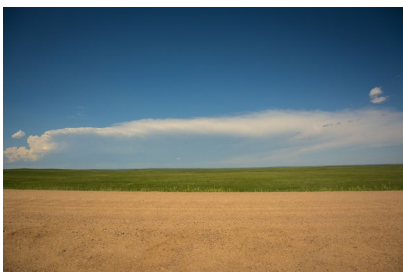
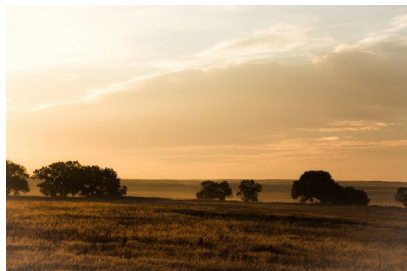
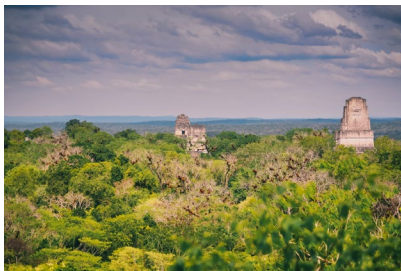
**" wow wow wow wow " - s. b.**

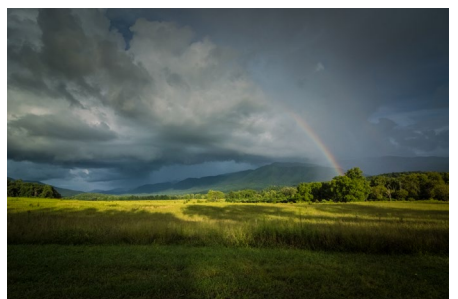
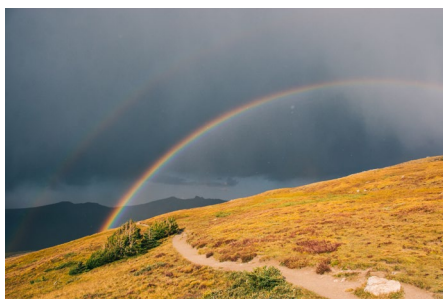
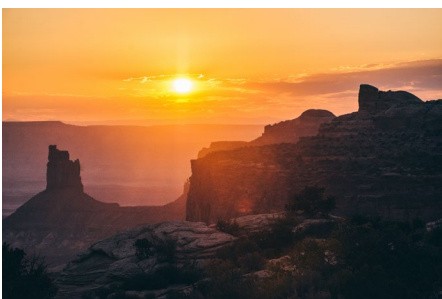
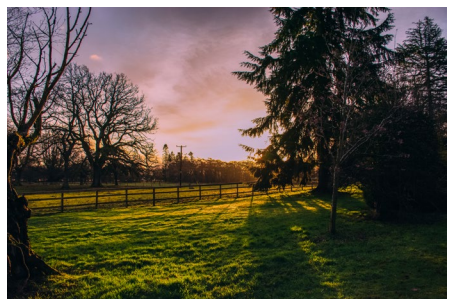
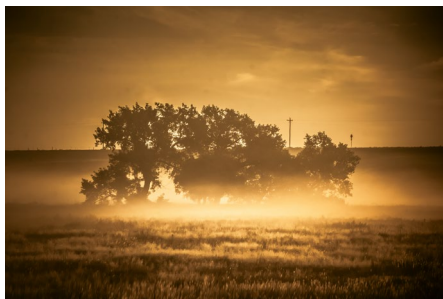
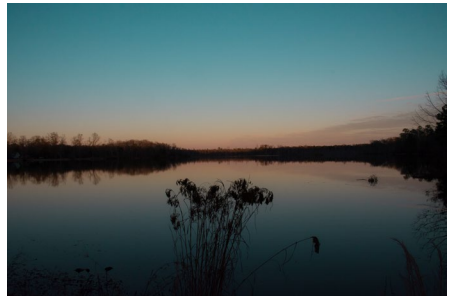
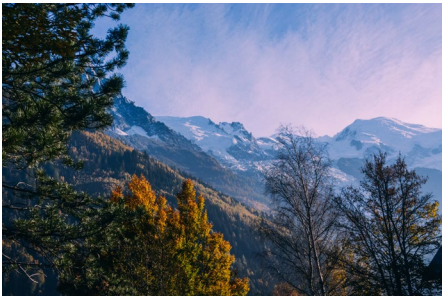
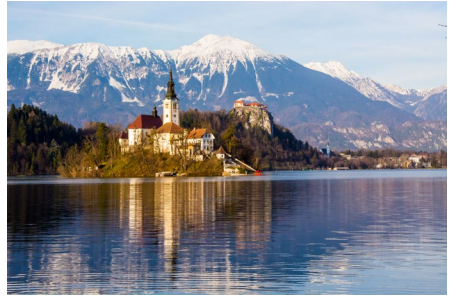
"We Are a group from Poland trying to educate about people with disabilities and neurodivergent, too. We like to share with our followers people like you - who are doing something cool and breaking the stereotypes." - I. B.



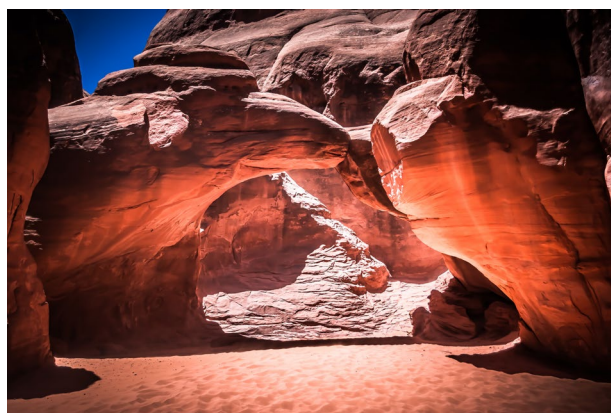
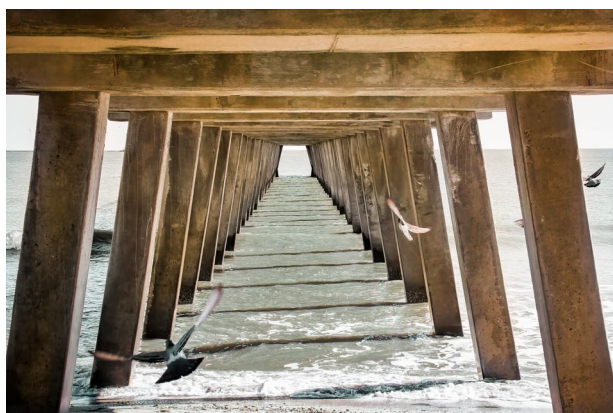
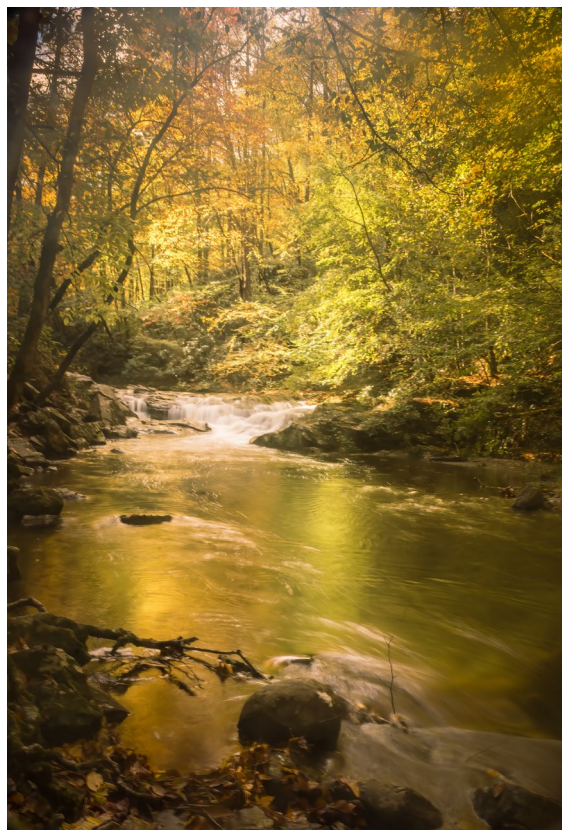
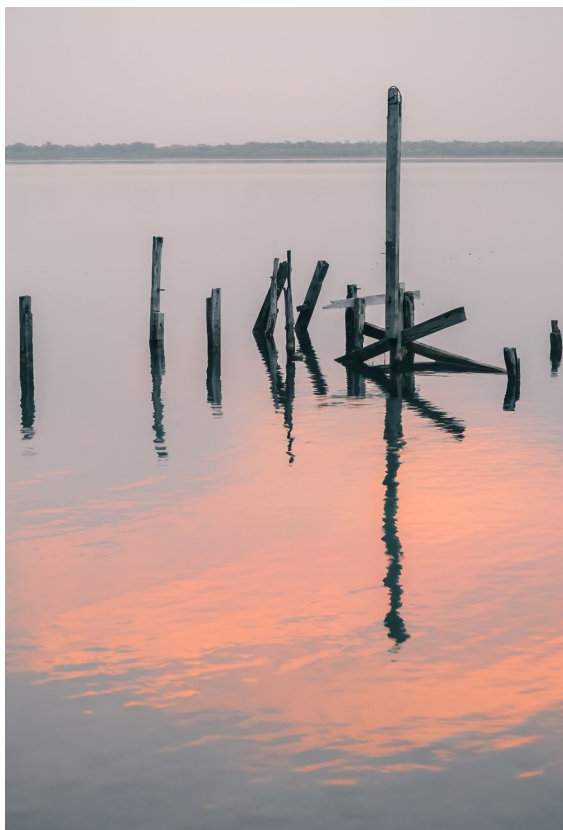


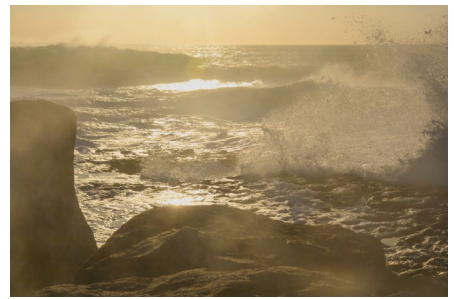
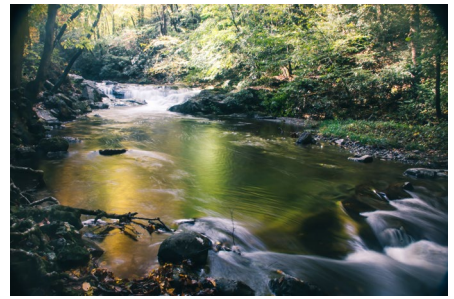
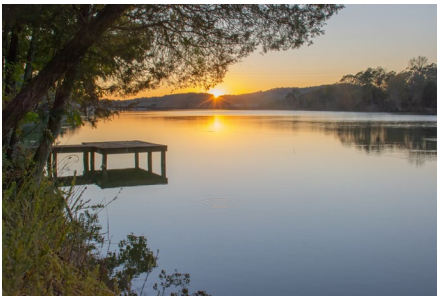
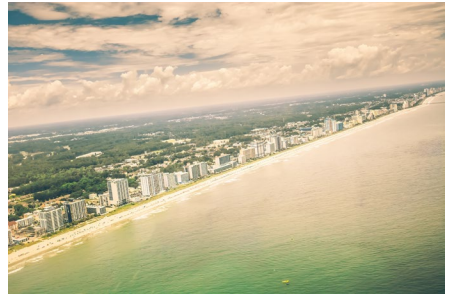
the sky's  
the limit

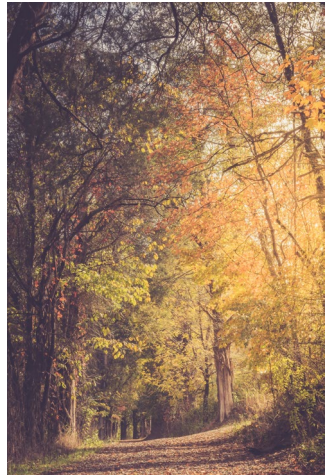




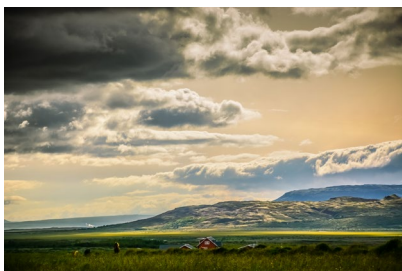
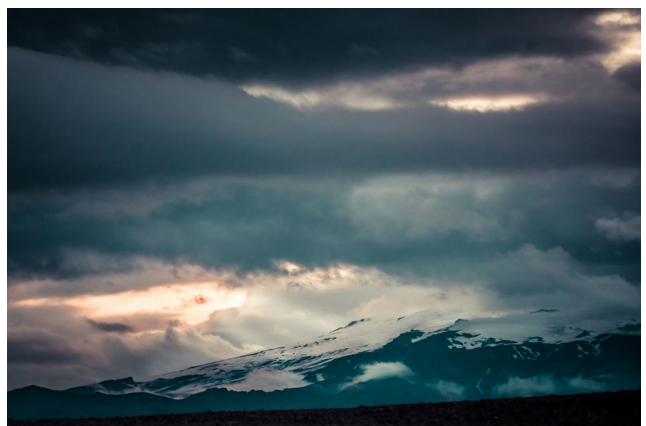
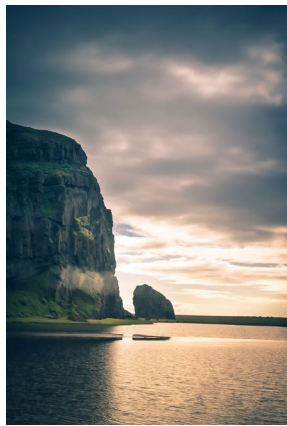
# down to earth

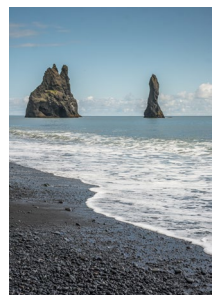
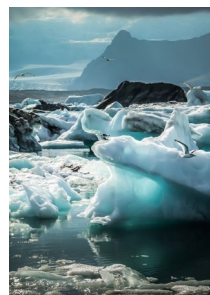
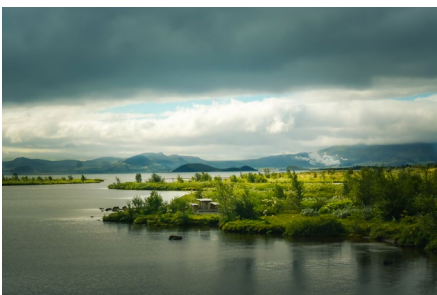
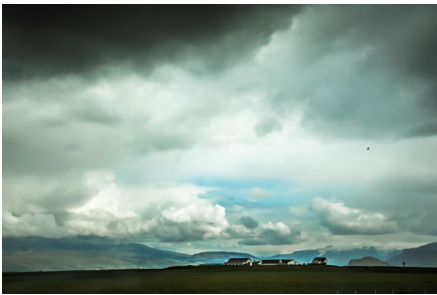






# fire & ice(land)





Each print comes with a unique certificate of authenticity. It provides the name of the image, the edition number, certificate number, and a hologram authentication patch that is matched by a unique number on both the print and certificate.

The entire print series has a limited edition quantity in each size. You can see detailed information on the editions on the product pages.

Once the prints sell out in each size and edition, they will never be available again. This is it and we will need to get to work to produce other prints!

# certificates of authenticity & edition numbers





# upside downs fine art print series sizing guide

This special Upside Downs Print Series is offered in four different sizes: **S, M, L, & XL**

The prints have been sized specifically to fit with universal and readily available framing sizes, making it possible to purchase a frame directly from your local art store or design store.

Custom framing is highly recommended for the Large and Extra Large prints. There is no printed border on the Extra Large, therefore the frame needs to fit perfectly and special care is needed to bring the print to life. When you invest in custom framing you are really creating cohesion in the aesthetic of your artistic display.

For any additional inquiries, please email:  
[houston@downsandtowns.com](mailto:houston@downsandtowns.com)



## **Small – editions of 100**

Perfect for your computer desk, office space, countertop, or even your bathroom.

*Image Size: 12" x 8"*



## **Medium – editions of 100**

A great size to put in a collection of 2 or 3 images in a hallway, living room, and bedroom to have a cohesive space.

*Image Size: 24" x 16"*



## **Large – editions of 25**

Large options are best paired together in themes of subject or tonality. This size is perfect for bedrooms, office spaces, above the fireplace, or dining rooms.

*Image Size: 36" x 24"*



## **Extra Large – editions of 15**

The conversation piece. These are massive prints and combined with a custom frame, these will be sure to make a statement in any home or office. Best for large open spaces with large negative space on a wall. As these prints sell, the prices will go up accordingly. Perfect for your computer desk, office space, countertop, or even your bathroom.

*Image Size: 60" x 40"*