



First Purchase Toolkit

A practical guide to buying modern art online with confidence - size, authenticity, editions, shipping, and framing.

Inside:

- A 10-minute checklist to avoid common first-time mistakes
- A copy/paste message you can DM or email to any artist or seller
- Invoice + COA basics, edition terms, and quality checkpoints
- Shipping, framing, and care tips to protect your print

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10-Minute First Purchase Checklist

Use this before you click 'Buy.'

Fit + placement

- Measure your wall and pick orientation (vertical, horizontal, square).
- Check lighting - avoid direct sun unless you will use UV glazing.

What exactly are you buying?

- Original vs open edition vs limited edition (and edition size if limited).
- Materials: print method, paper/canvas type, archival inks (if stated).
- If framed: glazing type and whether mats are archival.

Authenticity + documentation

- Is a COA included? What does it contain?
- Where is it signed/numbered? (Front margin, back label, etc.)
- Request an invoice/receipt listing title, size, format, and date.

Total cost (no surprises)

- Confirm shipping cost, taxes, and handling/framing fees.
- If buying via social media, use a payment method with buyer protection.

Shipping + returns

- Ship date + tracking expectations.
- Return policy window and damage process (photos, claims, replacement).



Copy/Paste Message (DM or Email)

Edit the brackets and send.

Hi [Name] - I love this piece and I am considering purchasing it.

Can you confirm:

- The exact size and format (paper/canvas, framed or unframed)
- Whether it is original, open edition, or limited edition (edition size if limited)
- Materials (paper type, inks) and print method (if applicable)
- Documentation included (invoice + COA) and where it is signed/numbered
- Shipping details (ship date, packaging, insurance, tracking) and return policy

Thank you!

Optional follow-ups:

- Can you share a close-up of the texture/print surface and the signature/edition number?
- If I am choosing between two sizes, which do you recommend for a wall that is [width] inches wide?



Invoice + COA Must-Haves

This is what clean paperwork usually includes.

Invoice checklist

- Seller/artist name + contact info
- Artwork title + description (print method/materials if known)
- Exact size + what you received (framed/unframed)
- Price paid + date + order/receipt number

COA checklist

- Artwork title + statement of authenticity
- Edition info (edition size, number, AP/PP if applicable)
- Artist signature (and ideally date)

Mini glossary

- **Limited edition:** A fixed number of prints will be produced for that edition.
- **Open edition:** No fixed edition size; prints may be produced ongoing.
- **AP (Artist Proof):** Prints outside the numbered edition held by the artist.
- **Archival:** Materials designed to last longer (acid-free, pigment inks).
- **UV glazing:** Glass/acrylic that reduces UV exposure to help prevent fading.



Framing + Care Quick Tips

Framing is protection. Keep prints looking their best with these basics.

Framing basics

- Use archival matting (acid-free).
- If the work sees daylight, prioritize UV-protective glazing.
- Avoid hanging in high humidity unless properly protected.

Care basics

- Keep out of direct sun when possible.
- Dust frames with a dry microfiber cloth.
- Store unframed prints flat in acid-free sleeves away from heat and moisture.

Next step: Browse guides and modern abstracts at MarvinStudiosModernArt.com.