Plastic Surgery for your Photographs

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Photo Reproduction & Restoration
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Need a Facelift? - (Plastic Surgery for your Photographs!)

Photo reproduction is the computer enhancement and repair of your priceless old photos that have been damaged through neglect, accident, or age.

We can reproduce your photographs up to 13 x 19”

- from negatives
- from positives
- from photos
- from slides
- from old tin types

All photos are reproduced on Epson Archival Photo Paper*
Photos are printed on premium luster paper, which is a semi-gloss, unless glossy is specifically requested.

*(With proper care, Black and White photos will last 165 years without fading; Color will last 200 years without fading.)

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Photo Reproduction And Restoration

Photo restoration is the computer enhancement and repair of your priceless old photos that have been damaged through neglect, damage or old age.

Photos are scanned into the computer and all work is done on the computer image. Nothing is changed on the original photograph -- the original itself is not “restored.”

Photos can be reproduced from:
- slides
- negatives
- positives
- from photos, including daguerreotypes or old tin types

Photographs can usually be enlarged up to 3 times or the original size without losing detail. Larger sizes depend on the quality of the original.

Photos are reproduced on special archival paper using archival inks -- made to last up to 200 years, given proper care, without fading.

Basic Fees

Prints:

Black and White Reproduction on:
- 5.5” x 8.5” stock - $5.00
- 8.5” x 11” stock - $10.00
- 13” x 19” stock - $20.00

Color Reproduction on:
- 5.5” x 8.5” stock - $10.00
- 8.5” x 11” stock - $15.00
- 13” x 19” stock - $30.00

(Restoration time $25/hour. One hour minimum)

Contact Prints:
Contact prints are 50 cents each for black and white, up to $10.00 per 8.5” x 11” page; $1.00 each for color, up to $15 per 8.5” x 11” page. (Maximum size of a contact print is 2” x 2”.) Larger negatives are printed as photographs. Contact prints are printed on matte paper. Panoramic views are $1.50 per inch (width) for black and white, $2.00 per inch for color, up to 13” x 44”.
You’ll be amazed at what can be done with old damaged photos - those faded beyond recognition; darkened to the point of being only dark shadows; scratched or cracked; torn, or photographs literally fallen to pieces.
The above two photographs were used to create the composite shown below.

Approximate time involved was one and one half hours.
This original photo was very dirty and, in addition to water marks, had some other substance dropped on it. The first photo was scanned in the original form. The second is the original, carefully cleaned with warm soapy water using a Q-tip, and then scanned.

The third photo, a black and white version of photo 1, shows the detailed soiling of the surface. The remaining photos were made using the washed original, No. 2, slowly repairing various aspects of the photo to eliminate the flaws in the original.

After each stage the photo was evaluated to determine missing detail in the original and restored.

The last two photos on the right, 6 and 7, show the final stages and the addition of detail that could only be guessed at from the original.

The original photo was 1.25” x 2” and extremely soiled and faded. It was reproduced as a 5” x 7”.

Time involved in this restoration process was approximately two hours.
This badly soiled and wrinkled photograph was interesting. It was almost broken through. After repairing the cracks and other defects the background was reconstructed. The center photo shows the results in the original color. The photo on the right has been converted to a black and white photo. Approximate time was one hour.

This photo was cracked, faded and someone had written numbers on the face of the photo to identify those in the group. The cracks were repaired, the pen marks eliminated and the photo sharpened.
This 1 inch square photo was badly damaged but the only photo that could be found of a relative. The photo was repaired and enlarged to about three times its original size without losing detail.

A photograph of the servicemen in the photos above and below was needed for inclusion in a book honoring those who have served their country. The photos on the right show the new photo after the girls were removed from the original.

The two photos above and to the left were badly wrinkled and cracked. Most times these flaws can be fixed.
Some photos will darken over time, depending on the original process used to develop them. Some will lighten over time to the point that most detail is lost.

Special filters can be used in many cases that will evaluate and restore the original colors and can result in a photograph that looks like new. In many cases a good photo can be obtained from degraded negatives. The negative below is an example. The original negative was very faded and reddish in color, yet the photo shows the original colors.

The photographs above and to the right show before and after views of an historic home. The photo is close to 100 years old and certainly shows the effects of age and neglect.

A little restoration and special digital filters can do wonders.
Sometimes a picture is too large to be placed on a scanner, as in the case of the above picture. The original was 16 x 20," on a canvas-like material. It was placed on a flat surface and a regular camera used to make a photograph. This photograph was then scanned into the computer. The scanned image was used for the restoration work.

The resulting image was reduced to 13" wide, which is the largest size that can be printed on the archival photo printer. To maintain proportion the end photo was 13 x 16.25”.

The photo to the left was done the same way and reproduced the same as the original size which was 11 x 14.".

Both images looked as if they had been done with pastels and the final product was printed on matte paper to maintain the original look.
This photo was actually broken into eight pieces and stacked on top of each other in a plastic bag. The pieces were placed in the proper order, much as a picture puzzle. A photograph was made of the puzzle and the flaws corrected. The photo on the right shows the finished product. The original was a large cardboard approximately 16 x 20.” It was printed as an 8 x 10” photo.

This was a panoramic photo taken in the early 1920s during the construction of Dix Dam. The original was 30“ wide and approximately 10” high. Any photo - as long as it is no larger than 16.5“ high - can be scanned in segments -- and then stitched together to produce a wide angle photo. Panoramic views can also be made from several photographs taken of a large area. Each photo must be overlapped from 30-50 percent in order for the computer to find the common elements and combine them into one large photograph. This particular photo was enlarged and printed as a 13” x 42“. The maximum size that can be printed is 13” x 44“.
Photos can be made to look older by applying a Sepia Tone to either a black and white or a color photo. The original photograph determines the final product which may be slightly different from one photo to another, due to density and other factors in the original.
The above photograph was on heavy cardboard but very dark and cracked to the point it was barely holding together. The photo on the right is after restoration.

The photograph below was taken in the 1940s of a young man in the army. In addition to turning dark and being torn, it was disintegrating. The entire surface was covered with very small cracks resembling a mud flat baking in the sun. The original is on the right. The photo on the left was repaired and the original color restored.
Color Problems

Often photographs made in the 1950s, 60s and even the 70s have begun to lose their color. Modern photography has similar problems but even the best color film today does not have the longevity as a true black and white photo. Most mass producing photo businesses are now processing black and white film with a color development process. These color process photos will also produce a photo with a grayish or purplish cast. This can easily be determined by the difference in the color of the negatives you receive. A true black and white photo produces a black negative, whereas one using the color process will produce a reddish negative. True black and white usually must be sent off or given to a real photographer with his/her own development lab.

In most cases a faded color photograph can be restored to it’s original color or produced as a black and white photo. In the below photo the color had deteriorated to the point that it was printed as a black and white.
This photograph taken in 1978 is showing signs of self destruction. The process will continue to turn the photo a darker shade of red until you will be unable to tell what it is. The photo on the right resulted from the use of special computer color filters that bring out the original colors.

This original photo of a sailor during World War II has changed to a brown. It was restored to the original black and white.

The above was a small Polaroid snapshot taken many years ago. It looked like someone had rubbed sandpaper over it. After about 2 hours of restoration, the photo below was printed as a 5” x 7”.

This photo was faded, badly cracked and torn into pieces. Below is after restoration.
This photograph was 11 x 14 printed on a canvas like material with cracks, tears and holes in it. After repair, which required about two hours, it was printed as an 8 x 10 photograph.

This photograph was approximately 2.25 x 3.5 inches. It was badly cracked, torn and part of the surface removed which showed another child sitting on a chair. The reconstructed version, on the right, took a little over an hour and was reproduced at the same size as the original.