



BET GARCIA ART

## Photograph Selection FAQs

I'm not sure which photo to choose – can you help?

Absolutely! Once you have narrowed down your favorites, send me your options and we can discuss them. It is often helpful to get the opinion of the artist, as I can help to advise you on which photo will make a better portrait. The selection of the photo can take a while but please don't worry about this. I consider it part of the job! Selecting the right photo is essential to the final outcome so it is always worth taking the time to get it right.

Can you combine individuals from different photos to make a composite portrait?

Unfortunately, I am typically unable to combine subjects from different photographs into one group portrait. I advise against this because when working from photos taken at different times, the highlights, shadows, and tones will likely vary too much and would look unnatural if grouped together. It would be best to have a new photograph taken of the subjects together and physically touching. If you are unable to acquire a satisfactory photo of the subjects together, I would suggest commissioning separate smaller portraits instead. A little grouping of individual portraits can be lovely and often preferable to a group piece.

I only have hard copies and not digital photos – can you work from these?

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to work from a printed photograph... especially if it is an older one. If your original is at least 5" x 7" and close up then it is a possibility. You have the option of either making me a copy and mailing it to me, or scanning it in at a high resolution (at least 400 dpi) and emailing it to me.

I have an older photo – can you work from this?

As much as I would love to be able to capture your memories, I simply cannot provide quality work from an old picture. Older photographs are often too pixelated and blurry to provide the detail needed for a satisfactory portrait. Trying to draw a subject from a small, pixelated or blurred photo is akin to drawing a subject that is 100 yards away. Neither of us would be happy with the outcome.

I have a picture taken from a cell phone or downloaded from social media – will that work?

Typically, a photo taken from a cell phone isn't large or sharp enough to provide the tonal detail needed. You are welcome to send me the picture to confirm, but please know ahead of time that it may not be suitable. Pictures downloaded from Facebook or Instagram are also very rarely usable. With that said, once the proper photo has been selected, cell phone and social media photos ARE helpful in providing me with a well-rounded impression of the subject's appearance and personality.

What can you change from the photograph?

I can easily do the following; iron out clothing, remove food or dribble around a child's mouth, or tidy up hair or fur. Examples of things I DO NOT DO are things like invent new clothes or patterns on a subject, change an expression, or take the head from one picture and place it on the body from another. If the subject wears glasses, please remember that the finished piece may have blurry eyes as the lenses can obstruct the detail behind them. Any concerns and questions from either side will be discussed prior to beginning the drawing.