

## **ABOUT METAL PRINTS**

**Images from original paintings by the artists, Tom Alway & Peter Blais have been recreated on aluminum using a dye sublimation process employing heat and pressure to transfer the inks directly into the metal. Art and science combine to produce an extraordinarily brilliant finish.**

### **WHAT IS DYE SUBLIMATION?**

**Sublimation is a chemical process by which a solid moves into a gaseous state without first passing through the liquid state (think of dry ice). Dye sublimation refers to the process that takes place within the heat press, once the print has been made.**

**For dye sublimation, a mirror image of the original picture is printed on transfer paper formulated to release as much of the dye as possible when the sublimation process is enacted. When the image first comes out of the printer, it should have very bold, dense colors.**

**The transfer paper is then laid image side down on the polymer-coated surface that is being sublimated. For flat surfaces, a heat press is used, This is where the sublimation comes in. When high pressure (about 40 psi) and high heat (400 degrees) is applied to the paper and surface, the dye inks in the paper turn to gas.**

**At the same time, the heat causes the fibers in the polymer coating to expand. The now-gaseous inks soak directly into the fibers, saturating and dyeing them. After about sixty seconds, the materials are removed from the heat press. The transfer paper is carefully peeled off - the dye inks on the paper will have transferred onto the polymer surface. As the surface cools, the fibers contract again, trapping the dyes permanently within the surface.**

**Many dye sublimation inks include a clear laminate along with the colors in the print cartridge. This laminate transfers to the new surface just like the dye inks, and creates a protective coating that prevents fading, scratching, and moisture damage. Since the image is not simply placed on the surface, but rather is infused directly into it, there will be no peeling, bubbling, or scuffing**

**Because the dyes are infused directly beneath the exterior coating of the metal, these prints are scratch resistant. To clean use a light microfibre cloth and plain water.**

**These prints are durable and not affected by moist conditions so hanging outside or in a high moisture/humidity are such as bathrooms and kitchens is fine. But avoid direct sunlight as UV rays will compromise the colour over time.**