

Framing/displaying your Portrait of a Continent

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How you choose to display your map is completely up to you. It depends on taste, budget, space available, use of the map, and what your local services offer. Framers are best positioned to talk details, but this document offers some tips I hope will be useful.



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Map specifications

- Lithograph poster – **40 x 50” (1015 x 1257mm)**.
 - Offset printed on 200gsm Sovereign Silk paper.
 - 1” (25mm) white border top and sides, 2.3” (60mm) on bottom edge, but includes emboss.
 - Laminated poster - Lithograph poster – **41 x 51” (1040 x 1287mm)**.
 - Offset printed on 200gsm Sovereign Silk paper, gloss laminated on both sides and trimmed.
 - Limited edition of 1200, giclee print – **44 x 54” (1117 x 1383mm)**.
 - Printed on 300gsm acid-free, 100% natural cotton rag with archival pigment inks.
 - 1.77” (45mm) white border top and sides, 3.5” (90mm) on bottom edge which includes signature, edition and emboss.
 - Limited edition of 400, giclee print – **48 x 59” (1210 x 1496mm)**.
 - Printed on 300gsm acid-free, 100% natural cotton rag with archival pigment inks.
 - 1.77” (45mm) white border top and sides, 3.3” (85mm) on bottom edge which includes signature, edition and emboss.
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Framing

If you plan to frame your map, there are many options. The colour of the frame is up to you, and your framer will take you through their available mouldings to make that decision. For such a detailed and colourful piece, a simple frame without too much colour might be ideal so it doesn't distract from the artwork – but it's totally a matter of taste.

When choosing glass, you want to consider reflectiveness, weight, and UV protection. Standard glass is good, though it is quite reflective. Non-reflective solves that problem, though is known to dull an image slightly. "Museum" glass is the best of all, offering UV protection and extraordinary clarity. However, it's more expensive.

Another super popular option is Perspex (sometimes referred to as Acrylic). It offers big benefits over glass when framing large artworks, as it's much lighter and shatterproof. It's worth noting that Perspex can scratch easily, and framers advise cleaning it only with a soft microfibre cloth.

Framing for limited editions

As both limited editions are quite large, there's a good chance your framer will suggest using Perspex (aka Acrylic – see above paragraph) because of its light weight and shatterproof elements.

All the above advice applies to framing any of the maps, but with the limited editions it can be worth considering conservation options. Also often called "archival framing" or "preservation framing", these considerations are in the wheelhouse of most custom framers. Using only acid-free materials, from the matboard to the mountboard (backing board) to the adhesives, conservation framing keeps protecting the artwork at the front-of-mind.

That said, you certainly don't have to choose all-conservation methods. The pigment inks of the giclee's are archival and will last a long time. But it's worth taking your limited edition to a reputable framer who can do a good job displaying and protecting the art.

Also – every limited edition comes with a hand-signed Certificate of Authenticity which is A5 (5.8 x 8.2" – or 148 x 210mm) and it'll be easy to find a little frame for this. Some people like to have this stuck to the back of the framed print instead.

Other options

There are other ways to display your poster, and if you're looking for frame-free alternatives here are some suggestions:

- **Poster hangers.** There are a range of poster-hanging options out there, including the most affordable solutions to get the map on your wall. Have a search for "poster hangers" or "hanger frames" and you'll see many options good for the unlaminate and the laminated posters. One item that looks great is this [40" hanger frame](#) on

Amazon. The product description explains how it works. Please note I am *not* affiliated with this retailer and have never purchased goods from them. I'm just linking this as a great example of a poster hanger. For Australian customers, [this item](#) is a bit closer to home and may be worth trying too.

Note: while the laminated poster is 41" wide, it fits great with a 40" hanger.

- **Block mounting.** I love a good block mount, and for something a little more affordable than framing but still offering a sturdy and striking display, this is worth exploring. Block mounting has as many variables as framing, so I won't unpack it here – except to say that polyurethane board tends to be better than the cheaper MDF board. I'm not currently sure how many places would do a 40 x 50" block mount, but it's worth exploring if you like the idea.

Do you have other cool display options? What am I missing? Please let me know so I can add it to the list, as I'm sure there are a world of options out there. Email me at welcome@antonthomasart.com.

Thanks for reading and good luck displaying! I'd love to see photos of how your map looks on the wall!

Cheers,

Anton Thomas, - updated October 2020