



## How It Works

CAHDD™ (Computer Aided Human Designed & Developed) is building initiatives that bring transparency and trust into creative and technical work. CAHDD™ is a philosophy and framework to bring clarity to creative work. The rating system, icons, and watermark tools are just ways to express that idea — not the idea itself.” From the CAHD™ rating system and watermark standards to awareness campaigns and educational resources, every effort is aimed at keeping human creativity at the center while embracing the benefits of technology. Whether in architecture, visual arts, design, music, or engineering, the mission is the same: preserve human expression while responsibly integrating new tools.

CAHDD™ is flexible by design. You can participate by simply declaring your stages on your website, using text labels, creating your own icons, or using our free watermark set. Visible markings on the work itself are optional — the important thing is that the stage is clear somewhere. As technology evolves, invisible watermarks and embedded metadata will work alongside or even replace visible marks.

Ways to declare your stage:

- Text labels (e.g., “Stage 2 – Algorithmic Assistance”) on your site or gallery
- Your own custom icons or badges
- CAHDD™ watermark icons on the work itself
- Invisible watermarking or embedded metadata (C2PA, IPTC)

### Maintaining Evidence of Process

A key part of this approach is encouraging creators to maintain evidence of their process. Work-in-progress files, drafts, project documentation, and backups are more than just good practice—they serve as proof of authorship and ownership. By recording the steps behind your work, you strengthen your copyright and intellectual property claims while also giving the CAHD™ rating system more context and credibility. Transparency begins with creators themselves, and simple habits like documenting process ensure that authorship is never in doubt.

### The CAHD™ Rating System

The CAHD™ system is voluntary, adaptable, and designed to spark trust. It uses two complementary elements:

#### CAHD Watermark

A subtle dot-pattern overlay, placed in colors that complement the work representing the chosen stage (CAHD-0 through CAHD-X).

Applied directly to creative output, showing where the creator believes the project belongs on the CAHD™ scale.

Unobtrusive but transparent — visible if you look for it, yet not distracting from the art itself.

#### CAHD Icon

A clear, standalone graphic representing the chosen stage (CAHD-0 through CAHD-X).

Not applied to the artwork itself.

Used where visibility matters: portfolios, websites, online stores, or contest entries.

When people first encounter CAHDD™, their eyes are often drawn to the icons and watermarks. That’s understandable—they’re the most visible expression of the system. But the real heart of CAHDD is not the graphics. It’s the stage framework itself: a simple, honest way to communicate how much of a creative work was shaped by human hands versus automated or AI tools.



The icons and watermarks we provide are just free tools to make that communication easier. They're not mandatory, and they're not branding. In fact, creators and organizations are encouraged to adapt the system to fit their own workflows and aesthetics. Some may simply state on their website that they support the CAHDD framework and that their work never exceeds Stage 3. Others may prefer to include a discreet "Stage 3" text mark in a footer, while some will proudly use the official CAHDD icons on every piece. All of these approaches support the same core idea: transparency.

We also recognize that not everyone wants visible marks on their work. As technology evolves, invisible watermarking and embedded metadata (such as C2PA) will allow creators to carry their stage declarations inside the file itself. That fits perfectly within the CAHDD philosophy. But for audiences and clients, having some form of visible indicator—whether a watermark, a footer note, or a gallery label—remains an important part of honest communication.

CAHDD™ operates on an honor system. The stages are self-declared, and the icons or indicators themselves are not legal proof. If a client, partner, or court requests verification, it's the responsibility of the creator or organization to provide supporting material—for example, work-in-progress files, prompt logs, timestamps, layered source files, or other documentation of their process.

This supporting information doesn't just back up a stage declaration—it's also a critical safeguard for intellectual property rights. In copyright disputes, clear evidence of human creative contribution can determine whether a work qualifies for protection. Retaining structured proof of your workflow helps demonstrate authorship, clarify where and how AI tools were used, and protect ownership claims. For clients, this transparency builds trust. For creators, it provides legal resilience in a rapidly evolving landscape where questions of authorship and originality are increasingly complex.

"CAHDD™ isn't just about transparency—it's about protecting your creative legacy."

CAHDD™ is not a governing body. We don't enforce compliance or dictate how anyone creates. Our goal is to build a shared language and culture of transparency so audiences, clients, and creators can make informed choices as technology evolves. The stage system is the keystone, while the indicators are flexible. Start where you're comfortable, grow as the tools evolve, and always keep honesty at the center.

#### Not Enforcement — Encouragement

CAHDD™ is a framework for honesty, not a policing system. Creators are encouraged — but not required — to support their chosen stage with WIPs, drafts, or process videos. CAHDD™/CAHD™ may host contests or public directories. If proof of process is required, CAHDD™ may issue a Statement of Effort & Transparency to acknowledge creators who provide documentation supporting their declared stage. This statement does not constitute certification or independent verification. Your stage declaration is an expression of your process. If proof is requested — by clients, contests, or legal settings — it's up to the creator to supply supporting evidence (WIPs, logs, metadata, drafts). The icons alone are not a certificate or guarantee.

#### At Its Core

The CAHD™ Rating System is about honesty and trust. By combining unobtrusive watermarks, visible icons, and simple process documentation, creators can show their integrity while helping clients and audiences understand how work was made.

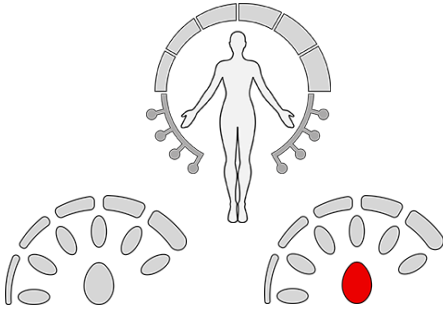
#### CAHDD™ Stages

The stages below show the spectrum of creative work — from fully human-made, to supported by software and automation, to AI-assisted and AI-driven.



## CAHD™ Rating System – TechRatio

### Stage 0: Traditional Human Craft

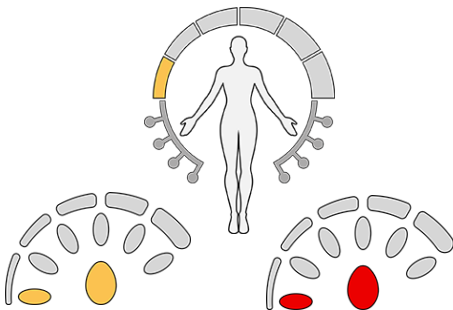


**Visual/Design:** Entirely handmade with physical media — painting, drawing, sculpture, model-making, drafting, photography with film, etc. No digital tools, no automation, and no AI are involved. This represents the purest point on the TechRatio™, reflecting complete human authorship.

**Music:** Pure acoustic performance and recording. No digital editing, no AI, no automation. Acoustic music reflects the lowest end of the Software–Human Ratio™, relying entirely on human skill.

**Summary:** 100% human expression through physical or analog methods only. This stage establishes the baseline of the Human–Tech Balance Index™.

### Stage 1: Digitally Assisted Creation

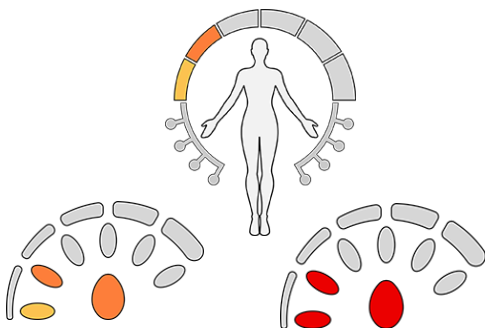


**Visual/Design:** Created using digital tools such as Photoshop, CAD, Illustrator, or digital sculpting software, but with all creative direction and execution performed by humans. There is no algorithmic generation or AI involvement — the software functions strictly as a tool.

**Music:** Human compositions and performances that are edited, mixed, or mastered using digital software, without automated composition or AI generation. Examples include manual EQ, reverb, timing adjustments, or multitrack mixing.

**Summary:** Human creativity leads entirely, with digital tools extending capability but not altering authorship. This stage remains near the human-dominant end of the TechRatio™ and Software–Human Ratio™ scales.

### Stage 2: Algorithmic Assistance



**Visual/Design:** Involves algorithmic or procedural tools—such as scripts, filters, physics simulations, parametric modeling, or photogrammetry—under human control. No generative AI is used; automation occurs only at a task level, not in content creation.

**Music:** Uses intelligent effects, adaptive mastering, auto-mixers, or algorithmic tools under human supervision, but does not generate new musical content. The human remains the composer and performer.

**Summary:** Human direction remains central while algorithmic tools provide structured assistance. This stage represents a mid-range TechRatio™, where technology supports execution but not ideation or content generation. distinct phases or unfold through simultaneous human–AI improvisation. It's not simply a reversed or hybrid Stage 3 — it's for complex, multi-modal pipelines that reflect the evolving frontier of creative collaboration.



### Stage 3: Human–AI Hybrid Creation

**Visual/Design:** The human and AI collaborate in a balanced, structured workflow. This may involve the human providing a concept, sketch, or simple 3D model, which the AI then renders or enhances into a more detailed image, or the reverse—the AI generates a base image which the human directs, edits, and refines into the final result. Either way, the human maintains clear creative direction, defining the vision, structure, and key decisions, while the AI acts as a productivity amplifier. This stage reflects a middle ground on the TechRatio™, where human and machine contributions are distinct yet complementary.

**Music:** A hybrid approach combining human composition, performance, or arrangement with AI-generated instrumentation, effects, or structure. For example, a human may lay down core melodies and rhythms, and an AI system expands or reorchestrates them — or vice versa, with the human shaping raw AI output into a structured piece. This represents a balanced Software–Human Ratio™, where neither side fully dominates the creative process.

**Summary:** Stage 3 sits at the center of the Human–Tech Balance Index™, representing the most common and practical hybrid workflows today. It allows creators to leverage AI as a powerful extension of their capabilities without surrendering authorship. Whether the human or the AI initiates the creative process, direction and intent remain firmly in human hands.

### Stage 4: AI-Generated, Human-Curated

**Visual/Design:** The majority of content is generated by AI systems. The human role focuses on prompting, selecting outputs, and making limited edits or adjustments. Creative control shifts toward the system.

**Music:** AI generates most of the arrangement or composition. The human acts primarily as curator, mixer, or light editor, making final refinements rather than directing core content.

**Summary:** The TechRatio™ and Software–Human Ratio™ lean heavily toward machine authorship, with the human serving as curator or overseer. Transparency becomes critical at this stage for honest disclosure.

### Stage 5: Fully Autonomous AI Creation

**Visual/Design:** The work is produced entirely by AI with little or no meaningful human creative input beyond initial configuration or triggering. This represents the AI-dominant extreme of the TechRatio™.

**Music:** The AI autonomously composes, arranges, and produces the work, with no human involvement in performance, composition, or editing.

**Summary:** A fully machine-originated stage. The human acts as spectator or reviewer rather than creator. On the Human–Tech Balance Index™, this represents complete technological authorship. distinct phases or unfold through simultaneous human–AI improvisation. It's not simply a reversed or hybrid Stage 3 — it's for complex, multi-modal pipelines that reflect the evolving frontier of creative collaboration.

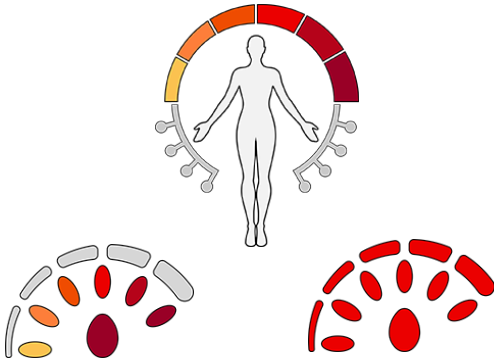


### Stage X: Hybrid / Multi-Phase Workflows

**Visual/Design:** Applies to multi-stage or experimental pipelines that span several CAHDD stages or involve real-time human–AI interplay. Examples include a project starting at Stage 2 for modeling, moving through Stage 4 for AI rendering, then receiving extensive Stage 3 post-production — or live, iterative human–AI improvisation. Stage X is flexible by design, acknowledging emerging tools, iterative back-and-forth processes, and future technologies that don't fit neatly into a single stage.

**Music:** Improvised or layered collaborations where humans and AI interact dynamically — such as live co-performance, real-time AI accompaniment, or multi-pass workflows involving composition, generation, and human restructuring.

**Summary:** Stage X recognizes that some workflows combine multiple distinct phases or unfold through simultaneous human–AI improvisation. It's not simply a reversed or hybrid Stage 3 — it's for complex, multi-modal pipelines that reflect the evolving frontier of creative collaboration.



### Flexible and Unobtrusive

CAHD™ icons and watermarks are designed to be versatile indicators, never distractions. Icons are ideal for use in contexts like online stores, literature, or product pages, while watermarks provide a subtle but visible signal of stage/TechRatio directly on imagery.

Watermarks can be rendered in any color or combination that complements the artwork or brand logo without clashing or distracting. As a general guideline, they should be sized at approximately 2% of the image width (for example, a 1200-pixel-wide image would use a watermark about 24 pixels wide). Opacity may be reduced as long as watermark is Legible. Placement should ensure visibility but never overwhelm the work itself.

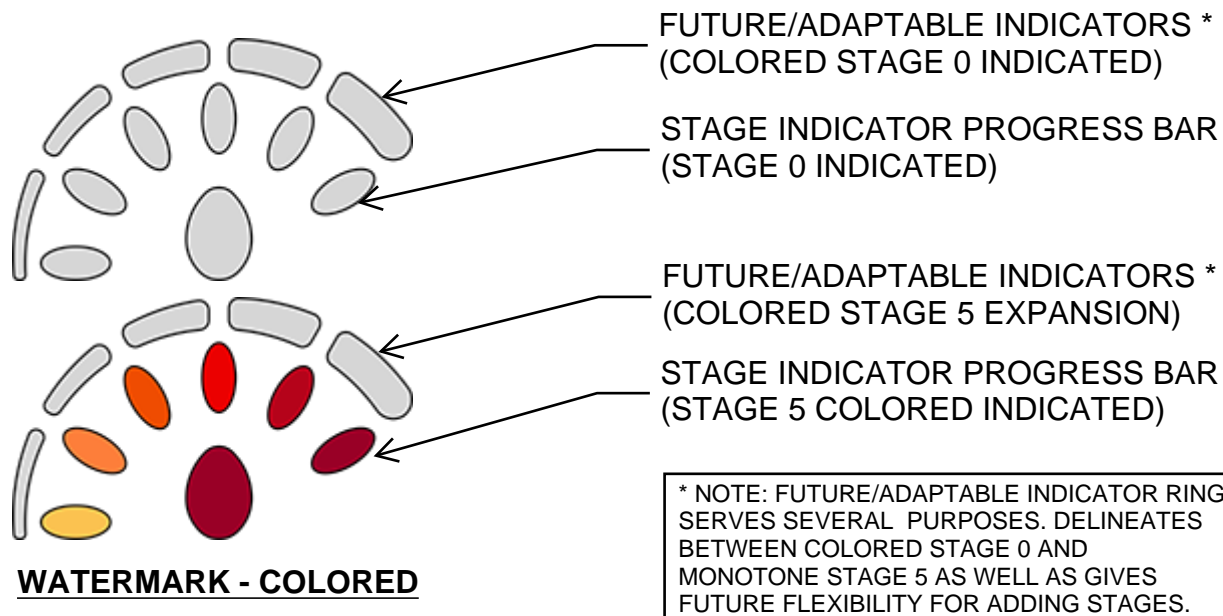
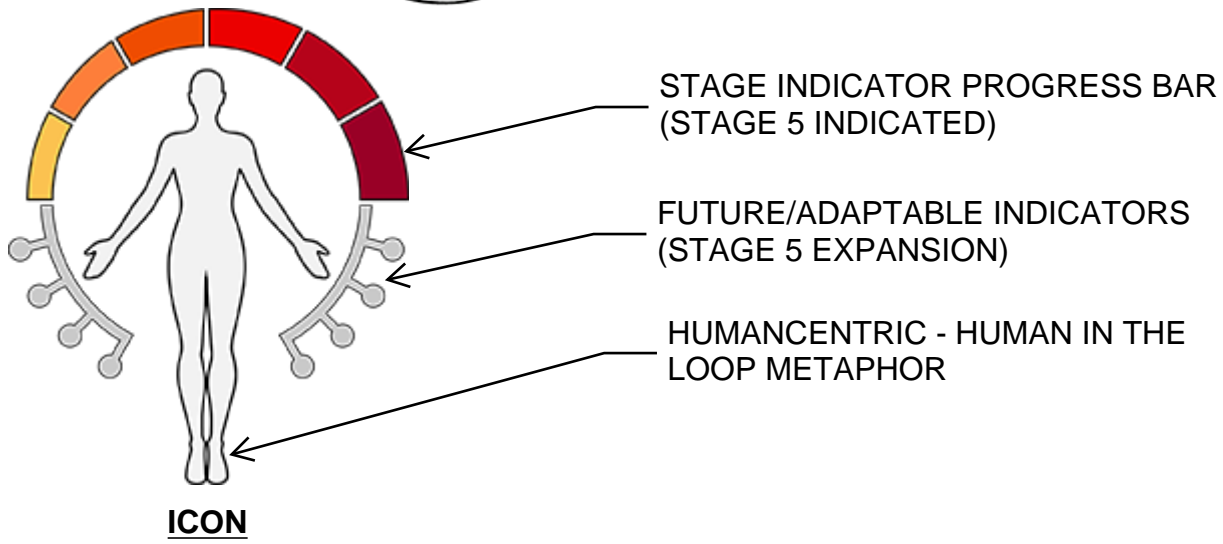
Watermarks may also be integrated into an artist's or studio's logo, giving precedence to the creator's branding on all their work. The CAHD™ stage indicator is meant to support transparency, not impose external branding. Our proposal is an indicator system — not a replacement for identity, Watermark designed to be as flexible as possible to integrate with end users standards.

In practice, the artwork or content always comes first. Phases and indicators matter, but they must remain in service of the creative work, not the other way around. For this reason, watermarks should harmonize with the visual context or logo they accompany.

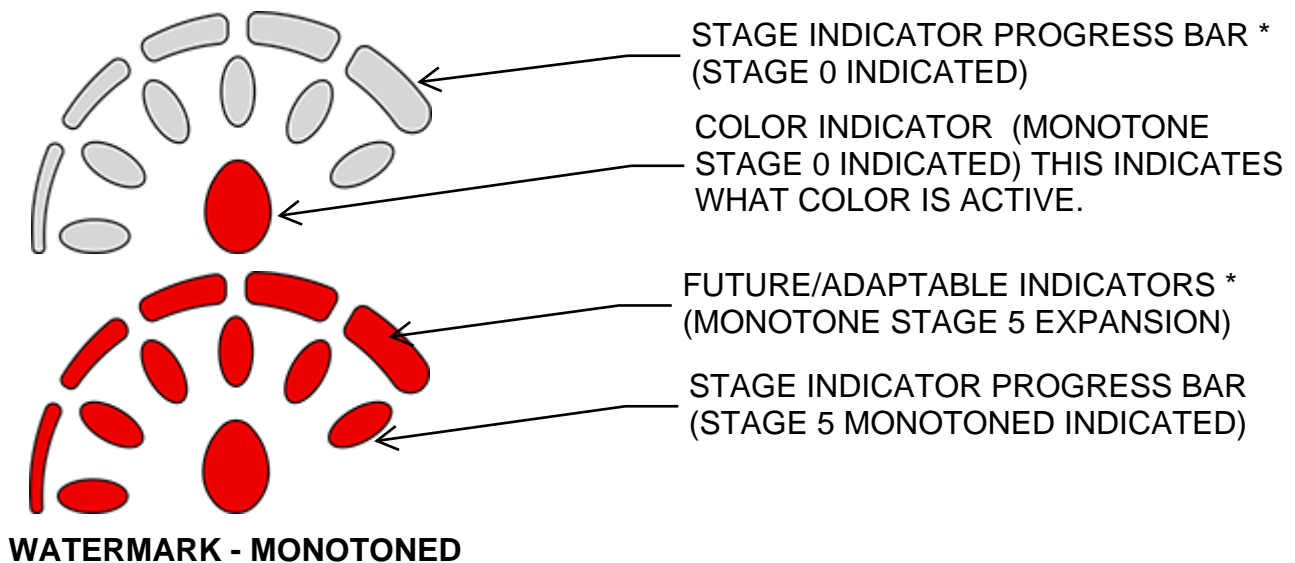
We welcome suggestions and examples from others on evolving graphic indicators or new approaches to the “TechRatio.” This system is intentionally open to refinement by the community.

All icons and watermarks are the intellectual property of CAHD™ and parent company 3DAllusions LLC. They may be used freely to indicate a CAHD™ stage, but may not be redistributed under false claims of authorship, nor sold as standalone assets. Their use is permitted within creative works, projects, or commercial materials solely as a stage/TechRatio indicator. Any use beyond this scope requires explicit permission.Licensing





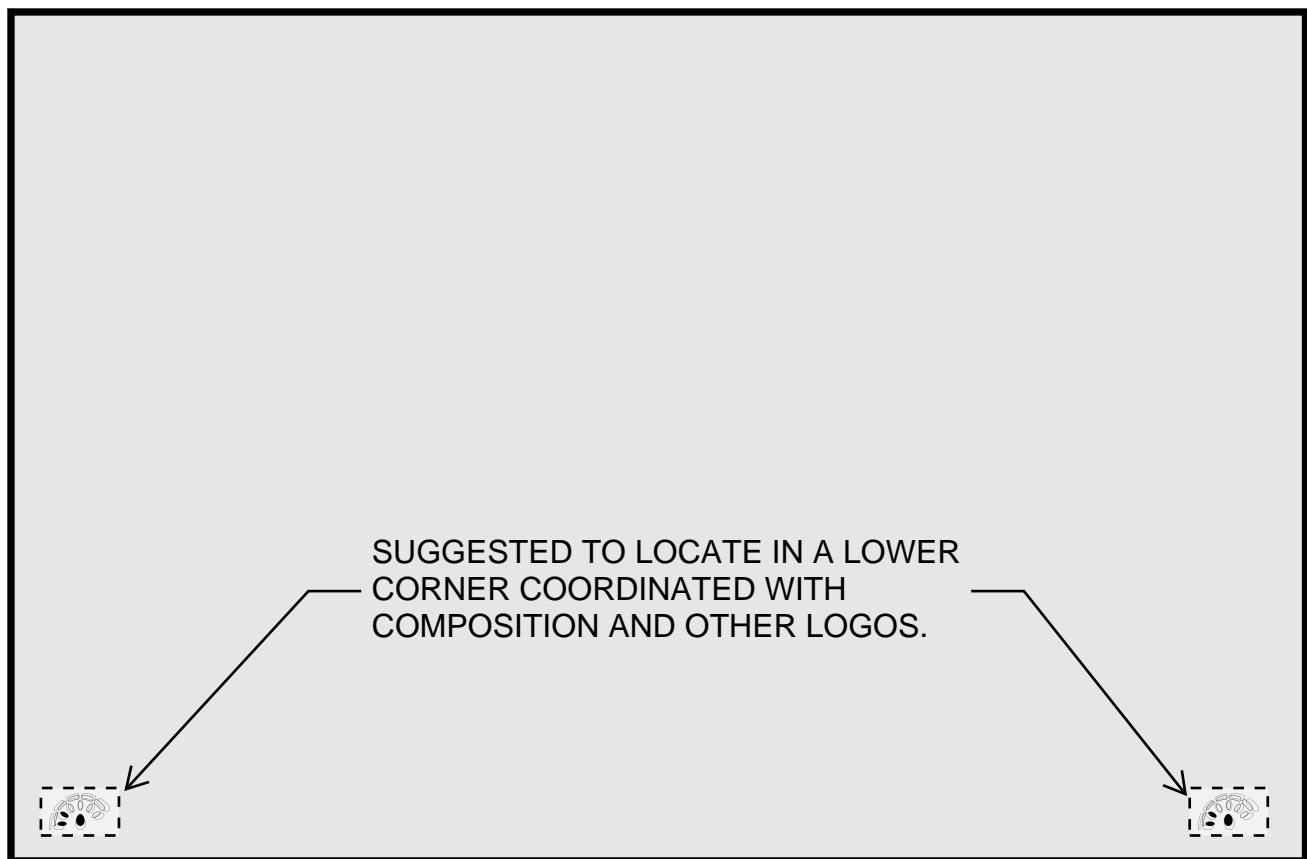
\* NOTE: FUTURE/ADAPTABLE INDICATOR RING  
SERVES SEVERAL PURPOSES. DELINEATES  
BETWEEN COLORED STAGE 0 AND  
MONOTONE STAGE 5 AS WELL AS GIVES  
FUTURE FLEXIBILITY FOR ADDING STAGES.





### Size Guidelines

Watermarks should be sized at approximately **5%** of the image width (for example, a 1200-pixel-wide image would use a watermark about 60 pixels wide). This keeps the indicator visible and legible without overwhelming the artwork. For high-resolution print applications, watermarks should remain proportionally small but still recognizable, generally in the range of **0.25–0.5 inches** (6–12 mm) across.



WATERMARKS FLEXIBLE, FOR LINE WORK YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE A BLACK AND WHITE WATERMARK, IT IS UP TO YOUR DISCRESSION..