
Bray Arts Journal

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Meeting on the Turret Stairs Ireland's Favourite Painting

The Artist

Frederic William Burton was born in Clifden House in Corofin, Co. Clare. Burton's father Samuel was an amateur painter who encouraged his son. As a young man, Burton trained at the Dublin Society's Drawing Schools and started his career as a painter of miniature portraits. He then moved to London to make his living as a watercolour painter.

The antiquarian and artist George Petrie was a mentor and friend who brought Burton to Connemara in 1838 and encouraged him to become involved in the Royal Irish Academy. Burton established himself in London as a painter of subject pictures and portraits. Other significant works include: *The Blind Girl at the Holy Well* (1840); *The Aran Fisherman's Drowned Child* (1841) and *Faust's First Sight of Marguerite* (1857). Burton worked in watercolours throughout his career; no oil paintings by him are known of. He greatly admired the work of the artists of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which was founded in 1848.

He was appointed Director of the National Gallery in London in 1874 where he remained until his retirement in 1894. He acquired many significant works while Director including Leonardo's *Virgin of the Rocks*.

The Painting

This richly coloured watercolour painting depicts Hellelil and Hildebrand, meeting on the stone stairway of a tower. The theme comes from a medieval Danish ballad which describes how Hellelil fell in love with Hildebrand, one of her twelve personal guards. Her father orders his seven sons to kill him.



Hildebrand kills her father and six brothers before Hellelil intercedes to save the youngest. Hildebrand dies of his wounds and Hellelil herself dies shortly afterwards.

Note: Due to its medium and sensitivity to light, the painting is only available to view for a limited period on the following days: Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12pm; Saturdays 2-3pm. The painting is located in the Millennium Wing (Room 1) of the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin.

Extract from Hellelil and Hildebrand

But in bower were we no sooner laid
Than the truth thereof to my father was said.

Then loud he cried o'er garth and hall:
'Stand up, my men, and arm ye all!

'Yea draw on mail and dally not,
Hard neck lord Hildebrand hath got!'

They stood by the door with glaive and spear;
'Hildebrand rise and hasten here!'

Lord Hildebrand stroked my white white cheek:

'O love, forbear my name to speak.

'Yea even if my blood thou see,
Name me not, lest my death thou be.'

Out from the door lord Hildebrand leapt,
And round about his good sword swept.

The first of all that he slew there
Were my seven brethren with golden hair.

Then before him stood the youngest one,
And dear he was in the days ago.

Then I cried out: 'O Hildebrand,
In the name of God now stay thine hand.'

by William Morris

Review of Bray Arts Evening Monday May 14, 2012

The May Show drew a large attendance in cheerful mood looking forward to an interesting evening. This was to be MC, **Zan O'Loughlin**, last show as a founding member of the Bray arts committee. A special presentation was made to celebrate her tremendous work on behalf of Bray Arts over the years.

Tributes were also paid to **Shane Rowan** who received the Endeavour Award for bringing Bloom's Day to



Zan O'Loughlin



Shane Rowan

Bray. Shane attributed his award to the encouragement and support he received from Bray arts.

Amber Graham, a new singer on the scene, opened the show with a refreshing take on both Amy Winehouse and Stevie Wonder. Her up-beat style and sense of fun won the hearts of all. A new singer has arrived with a strong and vibrant voice that can turn soft and winsome when the song calls for it.



Amber Graham

She drew resounding applause when she finished.

Frances Brosnan, Ceramic artist, presented a fascinating range of work. She shared some useful insights gained from sojourns in Dublin, Australia, Japan and Asia.



Frances Brosnan

She described how ceramic work does not always have a predictable outcome. This lends an intriguing quality to the process when, for instance, an area of clay that has not been glazed turns black giving interesting effects. Some of her work included porcelain pieces which made use of techniques gleaned from Japanese craftsmen. These were really thin pieces fired at a high temperature. Frances shared her experience of a trip to Asia which had a profound effect on her. She was particularly moved by the shanty houses which were so impoverished

that people resorted to filling in holes in the building with cardboard boxes complete with advertising images. She showed how she reflected this experience in a maquette series of shanty houses made of ceramic. She described her technique of building up the ceramic piece in three firings which allowed her to make the best use of colour and the application of image-bearing decals between each of the stages. Frances travels widely and reaches out to the underprivileged whenever the opportunity arises. In closing, Frances took questions from the floor and invited all to come and handle the various pieces which she had brought along with her.

Whilst people were looking at Frances' pieces and otherwise taking a break, **Carmen Cullen**, writer, set the scene for her dramatisation of her newly published novel *Two Sisters Singing*. This piece opened with the Queen of Connemara sung by **Mairin O'Donovan** and Carmen with guitar accompaniment from



Gerry Anderson Carmen Cullen Mairin O'Donovan

Gerry Anderson. Mairin followed with a rendition of Captain Kelly's Kitchen. Then the scene changed as a funny old woman with a screeching voice, played by Carmen, burst into the scene and regaled the audience for the next ten minutes with her rantings and reminiscences of past triumphs and longings. Returning to her real self, Carmen then read a piece from her novel which is based on the characters of her own mother and her aunt, Delia Murphy. The presentation finished with a rousing chorus from all in the room led by Mairin.

The final item of the evening was a wonderful performance from **Paul Mathias**, Singer and songwriter. Paul played guitar and harmonica and was accompanied on guitar and saxophone by his surprise guest and son, **Alex Mathias**. This was a wonderful close to the evening with rich accompaniment for each of the unique songs written in a ballad style reminiscent of Bob Dylan.

With phrases like "You're beginning to see how the light can bend" from 'Make Way' the duo used diminished minor chords to give pathos to the accompaniment. This Powerful sound was enriched by the soulful addition of the saxophone. From 'Ballad of



Paul Mathias

a Holy Man'. Paul sang 'Tear off those stolen sins and throw them on the floor' as the saxophone soared out to a beautiful ending. Retuning the guitars to a rich base D the sound became even fuller and richer as Paul and Alex sang Dusty Road- a clever play on the words of some well-known songs of the mid 70's with a touch of slide guitar. Finishing the set with 'Go Taste the Water' Alex gave free rein to his special skill. This unusual combination provided a wonderful contrast between voice and saxophone delivered by two musicians who were clearly delighted to be performing together. For encore, Paul and Alex finished with their own swinging rendering of Feeling Groovy

Cearbhall E. O'Meadhra

Coup for Bloomsday Bray

Bloomsday in Bray has secured a world first reading of the new play about James Joyce, Sunny Jim, by Bray-based playwright Frank O'Keeffe. Organiser Shane Rowan is happy to announce that he has secured world rights for the first reading of Sunny Jim which will take place in the council chamber.

Also, for the first time ever, father and son actors Justin Aylmer and his son Chris will take part in various readings. Justin, a hugely experienced actor trained in the famous Focus Theatre. His son, Chris, trained in Arts Ed. in London.

Frank O'Keeffe is an award winning playwright for both stage and radio. A professional actor, he is also Artistic Director of Bloomsday

For further details see website
contact Shane Rowan: 0862447487



The Overture

The Overture a collection of poems by **Carol Boland** was launched on Sunday, 27th May 2012, in Ernies Bar, Wicklow Town.

"Music and metaphor are elements of poetry and Carol Boland's poems sing with both. This is a beautiful book, full of surprises."

Rosy Wilson

The Overture

Play me something
says the fisherman
as he lays her hands on the keys
takes his seat in the front row.

She takes her time
removes a layer of dust
from the piano's skin
for this is her baby
her grand Russian spruce
grain long and close
crafted to stroke a clear tone.

She feels his eyes in the high
gloss of ebony sail,
offers him her time
arranging his fingers –
schooled for tying knots
not netting melodies,

and hand in hand
they practice the bowline
reef knot
the tying
untying

Aphrodisia

Like Cleopatra she enters the room
in full sail, purple silks of her royal barge
billowing in the scented air.

A thing of beauty by ancient standards
she glides like a painted Aphrodite
a soporific blend of cassis and cinnamon.

Diamond droplets sway from her lobes
move to jangle of beaten silver bangles
tingling a sea of faces, sending a finger
to the bridge of his slipping spectacles.

And as her bow cuts deep into Tarsus
another Anthony stands in its wake
intoxicated by the jasmine dipped sails
and shaky on his newly-wed sea-legs
he steadies himself against the creaking rail.

My bucket list

If an eminent surgeon
told me I had six
months to live
I'd go in search
of a polar bear.
Making a pact with
the devil's mother and
leaving nothing to chance
I'd work my passage
on a liner bound for Alaska.
Abandoning ship
I'd hijack a sleigh
and ten huskies
race against time
pick-pockets
icy winds
until I find him
in the whiteness
of the desert and
I'd say to the thief
on my shoulder
take a picture of
the devil's mother
the polar bear and me



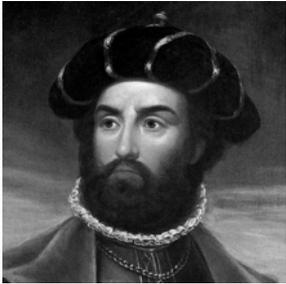
Carol Boland is a performance poet, journalist and runs Boland Press, the poet's publisher. She is the founder of the Space Inside Arts - monthly live night sessions and a quarterly arts journal - which aims to keep the arts alive in Wicklow Town, and beyond. She is currently studying to become a qualified bibliotherapist, specialising in poetry therapy. You can keep up to date with Carol by connecting to her blog <http://carolboland.blogspot.com/>

Copies now available by emailing bolandpress@hotmail.com or in Gory at The Bookstation - Main Street
Angelic Companions - John Street and Zozimus Book - Indoor Market, Main Street. It can also be purchased in Wicklow town from Bridge Street Books.

Lisbon

Shane Harrison

From Lisbon the lines radiate around the globe - Africa, South America and Asia - a web of names heavy with history and adventure:



Vasco da Gama

Vasco Da Gama, Pedro Alvares Cabral, Magellan. The Tagus estuary is a tongue of the Atlantic, licking the feet of Lisbon's hills. It laps against the southern flank of the Praca do Comercio which has traditionally been the grande entrance to the city. This huge square was the site of Portugal's royal palace for four centuries until the revolution of 1910. Framed on three sides by elegant arcades here we find Lisbon's oldest cafe, Martinho de Arcada, a favourite with the literati it seems. This is the place to start, so, in cool spring

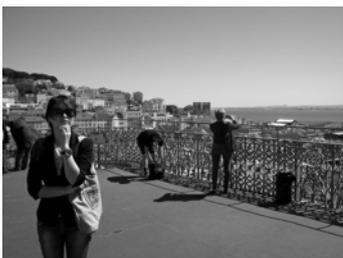


Praca do Comercio

sunshine I relax over a drink and watch the world go by.

The towering triumphal arch on the northern side is the gateway to the city's commercial hub, the Baixa. The cobbled streets are lined with craft shops, boutiques and cafes, abuzz with musicians and hawkers. A swarthy man sidles up to me selling sunglasses. There's more besides, hashish he whispers, and whips off his shades to eyeball me earnestly. The best of Moroccan, I am assured. Some time later, I make my excuses and leave.

The filigreed iron tower of Elevador de Santa Justa rises from the regular streets of Baixa. It carries a lift up one hundred feet to the Bairro Alto, giving the walker a welcome break from climbing Lisbon's steep streets. After the lift, there's one steep flight of spiral steps leading to a dizzying platform, open to the sky and with a stunning panorama of the city.



Elevador de Santa Justa

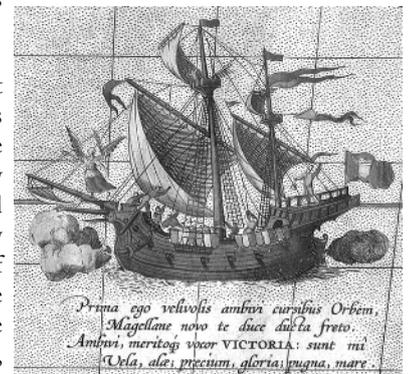
The platform floats in tourist photo-heaven and I take the essential shots. A girl stands in my frame, dividing it according to the Golden Mean. Her eyes, obscured behind dark glasses suggest depth, amusement. Still, I can't be certain; they are shadows, yet a reflection of the life and gaiety of this city. I sense that her iris will glimmer the blue of the globe, that lines of navigation

will radiate from the infinite depth of the pupil, like a spider's web connecting all places and times.

After a beer on the giddy heights of the causeway, I enter the Bairro Alto by the ruined Carmelite church, destroyed in the earthquake of 1755. Human rivers join and divide along winding streets. The famous yellow trams provide a good way of navigating this undulating city, on a rollercoaster ride through swirling streets. I go where they take me, alighting at stops where I can surprise myself and explore. Clinking and clattering through the Bairro Alto, my first voyage deposits me at the Jardim da Estrela, where I take a burger and a glass of wine at a kiosk by the pond. Nearby, the grave of Henry Fielding, eighteenth century English novelist and satirist, came here to die, at the age of forty seven. I'm a bit worried about the burger, to be honest.

Taking a stroll down the grimy thoroughfare of Avenida Infante Santo I arrive at Avenida Da India. This hectic motorway mars much of Lisbon's coast, forming a barrier between the city and its lifeblood - the riverfront. This is Alcantara, the port area, a bustling, edgy zone, built for passing through. The upper frame of this streetscape is the magnificent Ponte 25 de Abril, modeled on the Golden Gate, stretching across the Tagus like a bridge across the sky.

Further west is Belem, point of departure for Portugal's great navigators. From the mouth of the Tagus they sailed across the Atlantic and carved a new world. They crowd the carved pedestal of the Monument to the Discoveries: Henry the Navigator, Vasco da Gama, Cabral, the discoverer of Brazil - illuminators of a once darkened globe.



Magellan's ship Victoria - the only one to circumnavigate the globe.

Belem is fronted by a beautiful urban park, overlooked by the Jeronimos Monastery. Dating from 1501 it is the jewel of Portugal's golden age. Funded through tax on the rich bounty of empire, spices, precious stones and gold, it is a masterpiece of exuberant architecture. The interior of the church of Santa Maria is a serene forest of pillars, drawing the soul upwards in elation. Here we find that most restless of seafarers, Vasco Da Gama who established the sea routes to India and the Orient in the early 16th century.

The Maritime Museum showcases Portuguese shipping through the ages. From ancient barks to the lateen rigged caravels and on to faster, sleeker ships, the story is told in beautifully constructed replicas. 16th Century maps show the world as then known, complementing the world chart at the entrance which encapsulates the awesome scale of the exploration. This is a window to the Portuguese soul, a people with a deep affinity for the sea and a heart hungry for discovery.

I stand at last on the roof of the Tower of Belem, built as a fortress to defend the port in 1515. I can smell the Atlantic here, feel its pull. Buildings ancient and modern crowd the hills and sky to the north. To the east, the great bridge spans the river. Looking south to the Outra Banda, I see the figure of Christ, Cristo Rei, arms outstretched, give His benediction to the city of Lisbon.



Cristo Rei

Reviving ReDiviDer and OK OKO

Report from The Bray Jazz Festival from Deirdre Flannery

A right royal experience ensued at Bray's Royal Hotel on the Sunday 6th May from 2pm. Bray Jazz festival ameliorated the ravaging economic effects of the recession by offering free Sunday afternoon jazz - not to be sneezed at. It was only right that one got the chance to witness young, Irish jazz musicians showcasing their skill and songwriting talents alongside world-renowned jazz acts from places such as Norway, Peru and NYC on the May bank holiday weekend.

First up were **ReDiviDer**, together since 2007 and playing tracks from their debut album "Never oDD or eveN" (released by Diatribe Recordings, 2011). At the Cork Jazz Festival 2011, they were awarded "Best Young Irish Band" and it is easy to see why. Describing the album as "an exhilarating and original work that has received great critical acclaim", the album tracks including "In Aid Of" were displayed for almost an hour.



Main songwriter of the band Matthew Jacobson led the set on drums, with Derek Whyte (bass), Nick Roth (alto sax) and Colm O'Hara on trombone. I did not catch the replacement sax player's name but he was ably filling in for the original saxophonist and profusely thanked for taking over the reins at short notice.

Hailed as "one of Ireland's most exciting young talents" - the Irish Times, Jacobson often interspersed playing with references to his influences, ranging from diverse and eclectic artists like Charles Mingus, Steve Coleman and strangely Bjork, which you can hear in one particular piece. The music ranged from groovy melodies and the enjoyable duets of the trombone and sax who interseprsed and weaved discordant melodies at times. "Never oDD or eveN" is available from Ireland's leading Jazz and Experimental music record label Diatribe and received a four-star review from The Irish Times' jazz critic Cormac Larkin.

Playing for the Dublin band **OKO** were Shane Latimer, the band's main man on bass guitar, Shane O'Donovan (the band's songwriter and drummer), Darragh O'Kelly on the keyboard and the enthusiastic Djackulate on turntables. They have performed at various venues (Dublin;s Whelans on Wexford St. Grand Social, Workman's Club,



Twisted Pepper, and Cleere's) and you can experience their technical adeptness on their debut album due in 2012 from the aforementioned Diatribe (assisted by the Arts Council Music Recording Scheme).

This Dublin 4-piece performed a completely contrasting set to their ReDiviDer contemporaries, filled with electro-acoustic wonders and highs and lows. Unpredictable, experimental and impractical beats were the order of the day. The improvisational nature of the original pieces sampled archaic TV

shows and weaved a web of spatial ebbs and flows that delighted and entranced the enraptured audience. I almost had an out-of-body experience listening to the highly complex and eclectic riffs and beats. Extremely modern and varied, the set constantly changed pace, was confident, confusing and a constellation of sounds coming at one from all directions. These guys were very technically accomplished and displayed an assuredness born of years of practice at their trade. There was a palpable tension and strain to the second last track, which blended into funk and drum 'n' bass and differed from their more frantic, frenetic early pieces. It reminded me of the David Holmes' OST pieces in places but all in all one cannot doubt the improv nature of each one-off track. The drop beats and confusion ran the gamut of sound and I for one was blown away by their sound. OKO are more than OK and in my opinion one to watch.

Bray Students' Exhibition

From Tuesday 5th June to Sunday 17th June

This exhibition is a collaboration of two student groups, one primary school group, 4th and 5th class from St. Philomena's / Ravenswell and primary school group, 1st - 3rd year students from St. Thomas Community College.

Though both groups are quite separate and the work content of each group is very different, they both fall under the banner and funding of the School Completion Programme. Over the past 5/6 years, Signal Arts centre has built up a relationship with the SCP, originally through Ronan McCool and now with Michelle Kavanagh at the helm and on this particular project with the assistance of Ciara and Niamh.



During the past year the students from Ravenswell have been taking drawing classes once a week and the students from St.

Thomas have been taking graffiti class once a week, both with Greg Murray from Signal Arts Centre. This exhibition gives a great opportunity to both groups to display some of their work in an exhibition space and invite friends and family to come along and enjoy their artistic endeavours.

Opening Reception: Saturday 9th June 3-5pm

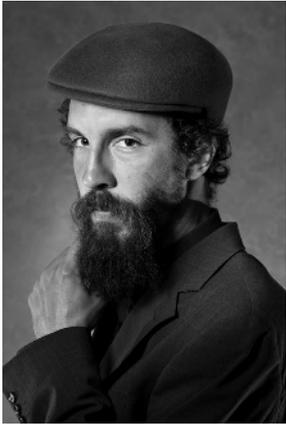
Black & White Square

An Exhibition of Photographs by Jan Freiberger

From Tuesday 19th June to Sunday 1st July.

Signal Arts Centre would like to announce its first solo exhibition by Jan Freiberger. Jan is Czech born, self taught photographer, printmaker and experimental artist who has lived in Bray for the last five years.

For this exhibition, Jan will exhibit a number of large format photographs, mainly portraits and human body close-ups. He experiments with face and body-painting, using a contrast of black and white, colour, graphic shapes and symbols.



Jan sees the human face and body as a canvas. He aims to create the minimalistic feeling in this exhibition, using exclusively black and white. It's based on Jan's fascination by the human face and body features.

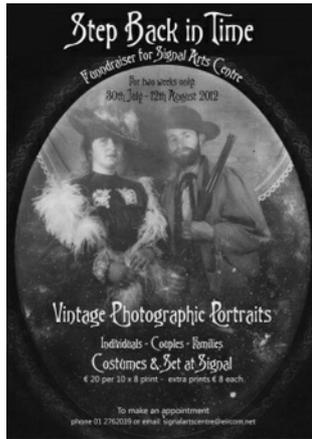
Opening Reception: Friday 22nd June 7-9pm

Step Back in Time

Fundraiser for Signal Arts Centre
For 2 weeks only
30th July 12th August 2012

Vintage Photographic Portraits
Individuals - Couples - Families
Costumes & Set at Signal
20 per 10 x 8 prints - extra prints
8 each

To make an appointment
phone 01 2762039 or email:
signalartscentre@eircom.net



Preview of Bray Arts Evening 11th June

8:00 pm at Martello, Strand Road, Bray

Everyone is welcome: Adm. €5 / €4 conc

Zoryanna

This Dublin-based Tribal Style Bellydance troupe are great favourites of Bray Arts. They always inject enormous energy and joy into their performances with their mesmeric music, movement and costumes. Last year at the Bray Arts Gala Show they were an outstanding success with the audience.. We welcome them to this final Bray Arts evening of the 2010/2011 season.



Zoryanna perform and teach in Ireland and Europe. Tribal Bellydance draws inspiration from traditional bellydance, flamenco, North-African and Indian dances, resulting in a unique style. Group dances are improvised, based on a system of movements and cues, so every dance is different.

Darren Darker

Darren has been making waves in local writer circles with his thriller novel Under an Irish Sky. This novel revolves around John Morgan, an ordinary thirty year old who has just lost his fiancée in a tragic accident. Seeking out quiet and recuperation in a cottage in Wexford, he unwittingly becomes involved in an adventure that has its roots in Nazi Germany. Darren's next John Morgan novel is due out this Summer.



Darragh O'Neill

It is always such a privilege to welcome a musician of the calibre of Darragh O'Neill to our Arts Evening. Darragh's musicianship possesses that indefinable quality that elevates his performances from simply excellent to exquisite. His performance is not to be missed.



"Darragh O'Neill is a guitarist with wonderful sensibility and artistry. He follows in the great and noble tradition of performer composers as a brilliant interpreter of his own music. As guitarist he brings delicacy and virtuosity in equal measure to other composers; music as he does to his own. His music possesses a rare but deceptive simplicity, which touches the heart of the listener while at the same time firing the imagination." Carlos Bonell

"... the fantastic Darragh O'Neill Ireland's finest guitarist. I've not been able to stop listening to the 6 original compositions of his on his latest album." Max Greenwood



CONGRATULATIONS

TO Wicklow Arts

for a brilliant Festival.

Well done to Eliza and Geoff, the committee and all the volunteers.



Arcadia Festival

Come to Arcadia Festival Bray for the finest entertainment, unrivalled scenery and a wide range of other splendid summer holiday activities for one and all. Picnics, theatre, exhibitions, music, film, cabaret and lots more good old-fashioned fun! Fall in love again with Bray.

As part of our 10th anniversary celebrations, Mermaid presents the Arcadia Festival from 8 – 17 June which celebrates all the best things about Bray today as well as all the facets of its rich social and cultural heritage. For ten days in June, we will bring the town alive with this wonderful history to help remind the world just how special Bray really is.

Ice-creams in the sunshine, train journeys by the sea, warm hazy mornings, fish and chips on the pier, periwinkles and cockles, fresh air and being beside the seaside – even when it was raining, dancing in Arcadia ballroom, puppet shows, showbands, the long stretch of summer holidays between June and September. Few places in Ireland evoke such sweet memories of childhood summers as Bray. Bray is a place that has had many lives, small fishing village, idyllic retreat for Victorian Dublin's middle-class, major holiday resort, home to James Joyce, thriving town and cultural hotspot.

Why not get involved by planning your own Arcadia event between the 8th and 17th of June? See our "Get involved" page for more details on how to join in and add to the fun.

Bray Arts Evening Mon June 11th

Martello, Seafront, Bray Doors Open 8:00pm Adm: €5 /€4 conc. Everyone welcome.

Darren Darker - reading from his recently published novel

Under an Irish Sky

Zoryanna - fantastic American tribal bellydance troupe

Darragh O'Neill - One of the most accomplished Irish guitarists of this generation

Submission Guidelines

Editor : Dermot McCabe : editor@brayarts.net
Creative Writing Editor : Anne Fitzgerald :
annefitz3@gmail.com

Email submissions to the above or post to :

Editor Bray Arts Journal
'Casino', Killarney Rd., Bray,
Co. Wicklow

Text in Microsoft Word
Pictures/Logos etc Jpeg preferably 300 dpi

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