

Hello, my name is Heather Renee Nicholson. I have had the pleasure of working with Captain Kevin Cochran on various art projects, such as the recent *Holy Grail* and *Keeper Gyotaku* Series, and the new works of art to be described here. We are excited about the artistic designs we have created so far and the ones to come. We've created this blog to introduce two of our recent endeavors, in which we've modified original paintings in a digital program to add more coloration and enhance their details.

This is an ongoing, long-term project, which we intend to continue developing. We enjoy working with the beauty of mother nature while expanding our creativity. We are thankful to all who have supported us in our efforts so far and hope all visitors to this website will check for new pieces in the future. We appreciate everyone who has spent time reviewing these blogs. We believe each of these pieces can become a unique gift that keeps on giving.

The artwork in the *Larger Than Life* Series was done by taking pictures of our original *Holy Grail* Gyotaku paintings, which we modified with photo-enhancing software, before setting the cropped images against backgrounds which appeal to the eye. The results create vivid and vibrant colors and crisp details; additionally, the "holy grail" trout appears even larger than it did in real life! The epic proportions of the monster actually measure a mesmerizing 34 inches when printed on these glossy, 24 x 36-inch posters. Seeing one of the *Larger Than Life* posters in person really provides a **wow** factor. The abundance of detail and flashy coloration make these unique works of art attractive to all who enjoy the sport of trophy trout fishing.

Intense coloration is also a trademark of the *Process* piece (which we intend to transform into a series in the future). We produced this glossy, 11 x 14-inch poster from a picture of the 30-inch trout we used for the *Holy Grail* Gyotaku paintings. We shot the image from an angle, with the lens closer to the head of the fish, to create depth perception and a radically foreshortened perspective. Then, we enhanced the image digitally, cropped the subject, and placed it in a background which provides a sense of depth and resembles a dark seascape. When we captured the photo, the fish was covered with paint (except for its eye), as we were in the process of making a Gyotaku, so the speck appears abstract. As artists, we personally love the idea of commemorating such and intriguing up-close and personal view of the fish while in the midst of concocting something meaningful.

All of these pieces have significance to us partly because we have invested our time and energy into making them beautiful, but also because they also allow us (and those who purchase them) to make donations to enhance and preserve the fishery, prolonging the future dreams and ambitions of people who like going out and trying to catch the big one.

I would love to hear your opinions about our work, what you like (or don't like), and if you have any special requests for us to consider in the future. Your comments are valuable to us! If you would like to respond with feedback, please feel free to email me at hrnpearl@gmail.com.