

DAC Open Access Images “ReadMe”: Technical Notes for Image Users

The Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University (DAC) now has an Open Access policy for all suitable digital images of DAC collection objects that the DAC believes to be in the public domain and free of all rights restrictions. This ReadMe document explains some technical aspects of the image files provided in this way and offers some technical tips for using them. To learn about terms of use for DAC Open Access Images, please see the policy at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/dac/openaccess>. DAC Open Access Images are provided in JPEG and TIFF file formats for different types of use as below.

DAC Open Access Images: JPEGs

JPEG files provided as DAC Open Access Images are suitable for use in slide presentations, on websites, in social media, and in related ways. These JPEGs have these technical attributes:

- Maximum height or width of 1024 pixels
- 24-bit RGB color (8 bits per channel)
- sRGB colorspace with embedded ICC profile
- Some moderate output sharpening applied
- Saved from Photoshop with JPEG quality at 100%
- File size typically less than 1 MB

Important note for JPEG users:

- If you open a DAC Open Access Images JPEG in certain software (for example, Photoshop) and it warns you of “an embedded color profile that does not match the current RGB working space,” be sure to select “Use the embedded profile.” Discarding the profile will cause serious color errors.

DAC Open Access Images: TIFFs

TIFF files provided as DAC Open Access Images are suitable for use in print publication and other applications for which higher-resolution files are best. These TIFFs have these technical attributes:

- Maximum height or width of 4096 pixels (or less, if pixel dimensions of source image file are smaller)
- 24-bit RGB color (8 bits per channel)
- sRGB colorspace with embedded ICC profile
- No output sharpening applied (*see important note below*)
- Saved from Photoshop with LZW (bit-for-bit lossless) file compression
- File size typically less than 28 MB

Important notes for TIFF users:

- If you open a DAC Open Access Images TIFF in certain software (for example, Photoshop) and it warns you of “an embedded color profile that does not match the current RGB working space,” be sure to select “Use the embedded profile.” Discarding the profile will cause serious color errors.
- Because users may resize these TIFFs to their locally needed dimensions, and output sharpening is properly applied only at those actual dimensions of use, the DAC applies no such sharpening to these TIFFs. Only after you have resized the image to its actual final dimensions, please apply judicious sharpening to it in your image editing software. Because over-sharpening can make an image look bad, please ensure that images are sharpened only once even if they will pass in turn through the hands of a designer, publisher, and/or printer. When in doubt, less sharpening is safer.

DAC collection images are made with the aim of accurately and consistently representing works of art. They are neither retouched nor enhanced to increase individual visual impact. Whenever possible, they include platemarks and other attributes of interest to scholars.