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# FINE-ART IMPRESSION

## THE CACHET OF THE PRINT BEGINS IN THE PAPER

by Andrew Darlow

► The world of inkjet papers keeps evolving, and one of the most interesting areas of that evolution is in fine-art printing. Look at these papers from three manufacturers.

Each offers something unique that may help you to better promote your work, create printed images with more impact, and perhaps save time or money.

### MOAB JUNIPER BARYTA RAG 305

At this year's Photokina show, Moab Paper introduced a new 100-percent cotton inkjet paper called Juniper Baryta Rag 305 with a slight fiber glossy surface texture.

Fiber rag papers have become one of my favorite classes of papers due to the qualities that many of them possess: a heavyweight paper base, subtle texture, and a coating that reproduces color and black-and-white in a way similar to a semi-gloss RC paper. Most fiber gloss papers also allow you to use the photo black ink on pigment ink printers, which is a plus if you rarely print on matte papers and if your printer requires

an ink swap that uses up ink and takes extra time. Because the paper is brand new, I was only able to test 8.5x11 sheets; like most of Moab's papers, it will be available in many sheet and roll sizes.



My black-and-white and color test prints on 8.5x11-inch Moab Juniper Baryta Rag 305 (pre-production samples), along with a small test image I often use when reviewing papers.

One of its main features that appealed to me is its heavy base weight, which is ideal for a fine-art paper. I would expect it to hold up well (and not require special mounting), even when matted and framed in very large sizes. I would describe the paper base color as off-white, and that's likely due to the fact that it contains no OBAs. I love the texture of the paper, which is so subtle it's almost smooth—but definitely there. I printed both color and black-and-white images on the paper and found the detail, color saturation, and overall contrast range to all be outstanding. The large areas of black in one of my images reproduced with an extremely elegant richness. With regard to the paper's gloss level, I would describe it as similar to a typical semi-gloss/luster paper. As with just about any inkjet paper, you have to be careful not to scratch the surface of the printed or non-printed sheets. However, I was impressed by this paper's overall resistance to showing scratches when compared with some other fiber gloss papers on the market. •

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