

Ken Allen

[STUDIOS]



Ken Allen Studios is a dedicated digital studio that specializes in digitization, image editing, and fine art exhibit printing. Our services include project management and consultation for on-site imaging centers and training of museum staff.

Following the principles and standards acknowledged by the leading imaging and photographic associations such as The Society for Imaging Science & Technology (IS&T) and The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), we refine our protocol for the long- and short-term needs of each institution and each project.

50 South 1st Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211
917.853.0592

kenallenstudios.com



Digitization

With our long history in digitization technology, our expertise is in assessing the unique requirements of each job. We use digitization principles based on the latest and best practices of the archival and conservation communities. Whenever possible, we follow the principle: "Scan once and scan for multiple uses."

Image capture is the first and most crucial step in the digital imaging process. Using the most advanced equipment and the expertise of our staff, we deliver digitized images of the highest quality. Our goal is preservation of the digital image. To this end, we provide an archival master file as well as a file that has been color balanced for current needs. We can also generate web-ready files at no additional cost.

Photography: Film and Prints

Film is an asset waiting to be unlocked. Digitizing it preserves and protects the original source: it allows it to be kept safely in an archival environment, while the digital files can be used for printing and publication. Digitizing a film collection is about building an archive of digital assets. As an integral part of your preservation program, it offers rich opportunities for conservation, exhibition, and study.

Prints that have been digitized are preserved for future generations. We produce digital files and high-quality digital prints from original and vintage prints that can be viewed for study, while the original lies safely in archival storage. Damaged or very delicate prints that cannot be exhibited can then be viewed as digital prints made from the original. A digital file can also be color corrected or have evidence of damage removed, and printed to match other photographic works in the collection.

Digital Image Capture of Art: Prints, Historical Documents, Works on Paper, and Paintings

There is no single approach that covers all objects. Different protocols are required to create an optimal digital file for each object, depending on the size, type of object, and the media involved. Please contact us to discuss options that are available for each object type.

Image Editing

KAS is expert in a variety of image editing processes, from retouching and correcting positive images to color negative processing and converting files for specific end-uses. Dusty, damaged, and faded originals can be digitally restored on master file derivatives to create rich, clean digital images.

Image Optimization

A skilled eye is required to achieve the best contrast and color options, but experience is necessary to understand the requirements for the final use, or end-use, of the image. Our technicians understand the contrast, color, and sharpening processes that will work for each application. This applies to RAW capture processing, CMYK conversion, toning, and global color correction. Color negatives are handled in a unique process developed by Ken Allen, which delivers superior color and contrast control to normal color.

General retouching services include defect removal, masking, local color correction, and simple compositional changes.

CMYK Conversion

Many issues can surface when converting an image for reproduction as a CMYK offset print. Images need to be adjusted for the final medium whether it is a book, print, or display image. Our experience working with printers ensures the best results.

Imaging Centers

KAS has digital imaging solutions for workflow, color management, system design, and automation. Our institutional experience in dealing with large archives of artworks is geared towards finding the right solutions for a collection's particular needs and budget. We set up on-site imaging centers operated by our trained personnel. The advantages of outsourcing digitization projects are:

- Cost containment and limited risk: the institution pays for deliverables, which facilitates project planning and budgeting.
- Costs are typically lower than in-house figures.
- KAS can handle large volumes and high throughput.
- We carry the costs of training and technology obsolescence.
- We offer a range of options and services, including imaging, metadata creation, enhancements, processing, derivative creation, printing, storing, and backup.

High-quality digital images are created when a collection is digitized. Derivatives of these files can be modified for use in high-quality printing and general media publications, and to set up online collection databases. Institutions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Basketball Hall of Fame, as well as university libraries and numerous other institutions, have already begun online access to their artworks; this is not only an aid to scholars and curators, but gives access and information to a larger public about the institution and its collections.

Exhibition Printing

Our fine art and large-format display printing is of the highest quality. We work directly with fine art photographers as well as with curators to create the finest exhibition prints. KAS not only prints contemporary color photographs, but also historic images. When the original print is unavailable, damaged, or too delicate for exhibition, we can digitally reproduce the print, with an astonishing degree of accuracy. All images are edited and color-corrected to create the best prints for exhibition.

Mounting + Framing

KAS offers mounting, basic framing, and packaging. We do smaller, photographic framing in-house, but we also have a network of professional, specialty framers that we work with to make this a seamless process for the client.

Consultation

Digitizing Objects

In creating a digital archive, there is no single approach that covers all objects. Different protocols are required to create an optimal digital file for different works of art depending, for example, on the type of drawing, painting, photographic print, or 3-dimensional object. With over 20 years of experience in photographic technology, KAS can advise on how to create Digital Master Files that contain the maximum technical information possible for each type of object.

Setting Up Imaging Centers

KAS is pleased to consult on digital projects, both large and small. We design workflows that are customized for each collection and client, from specifying equipment to training personnel, including evaluation of the current set-up. With over 20 years of experience and knowledge, including setting up work centers for scanning, archiving, and creating digital assets from art collections, we can facilitate process control, quality assurance, color management, and general problem solving.



Ken Allen, President/Founder

Ken Allen has a degree in Imaging and Photographic Technology from Rochester Institute of Technology, home of the Image Permanence Institute. After spending five years at Eastman Kodak Company as a Professional Imaging Representative, he worked as a Product Manager for digital camera systems at Leaf. Ken has traveled the U.S. advising companies on the transition from film to digital, color management, and new workflows. In addition to this work, he provided digital imaging and digital asset management solutions to publishers and museums. Now, over 30% of the business at Ken Allen Studios is helping museums make the transition to digital archives.