

Selection of Images

*Thank you for your interest in Signatures of Life Montages.
I look forward to working on this creative endeavor with you.
It's always exciting to see the wondrous creation that will emerge.*

Important introduction information....

Your selection of photos is a very important part of this process. The final result and appeal of your montage will be reflected by this selection.

With each photo representing a cost factor to the bottom line, then it's important to be discerning when selecting the images for your montage. Here are some questions and ideas to help you when making your decisions.

- How does that photo make you feel? Is it something you will want to see on a regular basis?
 - Granted any photo is going to look and feel somewhat different once it is part of a collection of images. However, it is important that you really like a photo and not include it from of sense of obligation.
- Mix it up a bit. Unless your montage is a portraiture type of grouping based solely on images of individual portraits, then try including different types of photos. Like people engaged in activities, candid or action shots that relate to you or the people depicted in the montage.
- When making decisions, ask yourself these important questions - Is this photo interesting? Does it capture a dynamic of something happening? Is it of sentimental or emotional importance to you?

This process of sorting is by far the most important stage that sets the tone for what is to come with the final results.

Where to Start

Sometimes the photo selections are not so daunting when one already knows the special images they want. If this is the case... Great! Your next step will be getting them to me, and there is an instruction sheet for that too! ☺

However, this *is* an important step, and it can be overwhelming and time-consuming when you have lots of images to look through. It's not always convenient to find the time to go through lots of photographs and files. In essence, for the success of the project, it is often something one must '*make time for*'. Being pro-active with this will be very helpful and gratifying for you. I've included a list of suggestions on the next page that can help.

For projects with a more involved selection process:

Approaching this first part in a few stages is often more productive and not so overwhelming.

1. **For PRINTS....** find all the boxes, photo albums and assorted hiding places where any of them could have been stored.
2. Move them all into a *common area* where they can be together in front of you. **If they are all in this common area, then chances of finding something "later" that you wish could have been included in the montage, are less likely to happen.*
3. **For COMPUTER FILES....** create a file folder on your desktop and copy images to this folder when you run across the ones that interest you.
4. Now set aside a day/date/time on your calendar and commit to sitting with the pile of boxes, albums, files etc. *and just start* ☺ It gets easier and more fun as you revisit old memories that often bring a heartfelt richness to your end results.
5. Start a couple of piles (or digital folders on your computer) or BOTH! Create a 'YES' pile and a 'MAYBE' pile. The NO's can go back into the boxes or be deleted. ☺

Process of Elimination

Now that you've boiled things down to a couple of piles it's time for the *process of elimination*. Here you can add another pile/folder, called 'MUST HAVE'. When making your final decisions, keep in mind the feeling each one gives you and the interest it has for you. In instances where you have several photos that are similar, do your best to narrow down the choice. Maybe ask a friend or family member for a second opinion.

** No matter what final number of images you have decided on for your Montage, it's good to include a few extra that you really like because sometimes, in the design phase, there can be one or two that just **don't want to play nice with the others.** ☺ So having another choice or two is always helpful.*

That being said, I will always make sure that your 'MUST HAVES' are there! When you get down to your final selections but are still having trouble with some of the choices, I can help. Include them all when you are sending to me and often can I see which ones will work well together.

*If you need to contact me (Priscilla)
I can be reached at this email address.... signatures@shaw.ca*