



image credit: GlasPro, 2013

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† Based on weekly patent counts issued by United States Patent and Trademark Office.
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iPF Success

Large Format Printing Success Story

GlasPro for the Aquarium of the Pacific | Long Beach, CA



image credit: GlasPro, 2013

"GlasPro has more than 100,000 square footage of material on display in the world, printed only from our imagePROGRAF printer"



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GlasPro Dives Right In

The assignment: Create a super-high resolution, exact-color, panoramic view of a kelp forest, comprised of 1,200 individual photographs printed on clear polyester and laminated into glass for the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA. The overall objective: Provide viewers the immersive sensation of free-diving into the kelp forest. Sound like a daunting project?

GlasPro, a California-based glass fabricator specializing high-quality structural, architectural and design glass was faced with this challenge – and took it head on. The Company's team of graphic artists and digital photography experts implemented a number of complex photographic techniques and specialized imaging equipment to produce approximately 1,200 images that comprise the background, mid-field and foreground areas of this piece. These elements were then "stitched" together in a photo-composite and printed onto a clear polyester substrate using a 12-color Canon imagePROGRAF large format printer. This substrate was layered in polyvinyl adhesive and placed between fifty-two twelve-foot tall sheets of glass and laminated to produce twenty-six individual, aligning panels.

Spanning more than one-hundred feet, the finished installation presents a seamless view of the composite photograph depicting the colorful marine life of the California coast in its natural environment.

This project, which recently earned Glass Magazine's "Most Innovative Decorative



View from Gift Shop Interior

Glass Project (Commercial Interior)" award, is unparalleled in its field for its complexity and challenges, which included very large size, ultra-precise detailing and the need for exact color. Anyone who has seen the Aquarium of the Pacific's gift shop initially gravitates toward the intricate photography needed to create such a stunning display, but the most important factor of the process that rises above the vivid imagery lie within print operations. The level of vibrancy and energy needed to be conveyed to patrons would be completely lost if printed with a subpar device and ink. Even though this project was conceptualized around the most breathtaking photographs, the result hinged heavily on its printing device, as a project of this size and magnitude could have easily lost its quality and color with even the slightest misstep.

"The Aquarium of the Pacific's initial vendor produced a subpar sample, and they ultimately needed a glass specialist who could produce exemplary results in-house that would capture a nearly

exact replica of the dynamic marine ecosystems found on the ocean floor," said McNeil Bishop, Director of Marketing and Product Development at GlasPro.

"Canon's large format printer was the only device for our team that could print such a large amount of square footage in a relatively short time, all while maintaining extremely high levels of detailing and precise color matching."

Ultimately, GlasPro's technical acumen and commitment to producing the best results, aided by Canon's 60" imagePROGRAF printer, was crucial to finalizing this vision. For the past twenty five years, GlasPro's employees have been serving an international clientele of professionals who demand some of the most painstakingly detailed products for both interior and exterior glass displays. Its staff specializes in taking ideas from inception to completion by employing state-of-



View from Gift Shop Interior



Close-up of glass in Gift Shop Interior

the-art equipment and techniques in producing digital graphics and images of uncompromising quality, and only has one large-format printer in its arsenal – the Canon imagePROGRAF printer. "Clients come to us looking for top-of-the-line glass displays that will represent their brands and attract customers," says Bishop.

"We've been a Canon customer for four years and counting."

In the past, we've experimented with competing printers and ultimately, their pigments and ink fade over time, since our work is shown in both interior and exterior environments. Thus far, we've never had a problem with our Canon large format printer. Canon's imagePROGRAF device has all of the qualities that a company of our size needs – its competitive cost, convenience of service and its ability to produce large quantities that match the exact colors we're looking for.

To date, GlasPro has more than 100,000 square footage of material on display in the world, printed only from our imagePROGRAF printer," said Tim Meinhart, Art Director at GlasPro. *"Large projects such as the Aquarium of the Pacific gift shop would typically be outsourced in the past due to its size alone.*

But with our imagePROGRAF printer that we've utilized over the past four years, we've exponentially increased our presence in our field by being able to produce large-scale graphical glass projects that wouldn't have been possible before."

For GlasPro, the marriage between its deep expertise in graphics and glass, combined with the color quality, speed and precision of Canon's imagePROGRAF printer, has created the ability to deliver customers some of the most compelling and vibrant glass structures in the country. ■