

Tips for Photographing Your Artwork

1. Hang your artwork on a neutral colored wall- white, black. Hang your artwork at a height where the middle of your piece will be parallel to where your camera will be resting on a secure surface.
2. Light your artwork properly. If you are shooting your work indoors, make sure the room has lots of windows and natural light. If shooting your work outside, photograph it when it is cloudy or overcast. Natural light is a great way to photograph your artwork as long as the light is indirect. If you can't access natural light, you will need at least 2 lights for 2 dimensional artwork. Use lighting stands and/or clamp lights, placing the lights halfway between the camera and the artwork at a 45 degree angle pointing toward the wall to help eliminate shadows and hot spots.
3. You should position your camera so that the frame is filled with most of the painting with a bit of background that you can crop out. If you are using a traditional camera, studio shots generally are shot at ISO 100 and an f-stop aperture between f-8 and f-11. You can also set your camera's timer to 4 or 5 seconds so that pressing the shutter button doesn't shake the image. Many phone cameras can be adjusted much like a traditional camera.
4. If necessary edit your photos to achieve perfection. There are free or inexpensive photo editing software such as Photoshop Elements or Gimp, that have basic functions such as color correction and cropping.