

PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORK AT HOME

**** Before beginning, locate an evenly lit space inside or outside your home. This area should be flat, free of shadows, and preferably should be natural daylight rather than interior artificial lighting as this can add odd color casts in your photograph. The flash included on your smart phone should not be used to document artwork as it creates unflattering hard shadows and highlights. ****

FOR PHOTOGRAPHING TWO-DIMENSIONAL WORKS

1. For loose works of art on paper, that are a small to medium size, try to photograph them flat on a low surface such as a table, or, the ground. In the below example image the digital photograph on canvas is placed on a spare piece of white foam core, however, white paper or a white sheet or other fabric stretched tight can work.
2. Stand above the artwork, making sure you are not casting a shadow on the piece, attempt to visually align the edges of your artwork or support board (the foam core) parallel with the edges of your iPhone camera screen so that there is minimal distortion.



Note the artwork is placed in even light. The image on the right has minor edits applied using the iPhone editing technology. The image was slightly brightened up (be careful not to “blow” out or over brighten your highlights), and also cropped closer to the artwork.

For larger two-dimensional works the same technique can be applied and standing on a chair or small ladder could help you with your shot. A neutral piece of material such as a foam core board, paper, or flat sheet can be used as the background. Likewise, artwork that can be hung on the wall should be placed on a neutral colored wall, with some amount of window light coming in, evenly illuminating the piece.



This painting was hung on a wall that received the most even light in the house from the side window. The same “aligning” techniques were applied when composing on the iPhone to make sure the image was straight and no distortions were seen (minor rotation adjustments are possible in the editing software of most smartphones).

FOR PHOTOGRAPHING THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORKS

1. For small to medium size three dimensional works a make shift backdrop can be fabricated with a simple piece of white paper.
2. Once you've located an evenly lit area, attach your paper to the floor and wall. Curve the paper and tape one end to the ground, and the other to wall. (see example image below). This creates a curved background with no distracting corners or lines.



As with the two-dimensional examples, the bird sculpture was edited using included iPhone software. Only slight brightness adjustments were applied. ***The bigger the piece of paper the bigger the size sculpture can be place onto it***