Tips for Photographing Artwork

LIGHTING

Bright, diffused daylight will give you the best results. Photograph outside on a lightly overcast day, or near a large window under the same conditions.
>> Tungsten, quartz, and fluorescent lights can also work.
>> Do not mix light sources.

Artwork should be evenly lit.
>> If light is hitting your artwork at an angle, try reflecting the light using a white poster board or piece of foam core. Get a friend to help, or prop it up on a chair.
>> Make sure your artwork is not backlit.

Make sure there are no deep shadows or bright reflections obscuring parts of the work.
>> Framed artworks should be photographed without the glass to avoid glare. If you can't remove the glass, you will need to angle the light and camera to minimize reflection and glare.

Don't use a flash.

COMPOSITION

Make sure your artwork is against a neutral background and, for 2D work, level against the wall.
>> White, black, and grey are all good options. Bright colors and background clutter distract from the artwork.
>> If using fabric as a backdrop, make sure it is ironed.

Whenever possible, fill the photo frame with your artwork and try to show as little background as possible.
>> Using the zoom function on your camera or cropping afterwards can decrease image sharpness.

Take the picture from straight ahead and pay attention to the way you position your artwork.
>> If your work is leaning against the wall at an angle, tilt the camera angle to match.

OTHER TIPS

If photographing multiple pieces in the same series, take pictures of each piece in the same photo shoot. This will ensure consistency in lighting and composition.

Take lots of photos and choose the best one.

POST PRODUCTION

Label your images! Make it easy to locate your images, for yourself and for us. Please label image files in the following format:
>> FirstName LastName, Title, Medium, Dimensions, Year, Price (or Not For Sale)

For ArtsWorcester purposes, please save files in the following format:
>> jpeg, jpg, or png
>> Image resolution should be 300 dpi
>> At least 600 pixels, and not more than 1,200 pixels, in either direction
>> 3MB maximum file size for images. Videos should be web ready.