



# HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR 2D ARTWORK

## SET UP

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### 1. Arrange the artwork.

- Remove matting to avoid shadows.
- Hang the artwork on a wall and make sure it's level to prevent shadows.
- If you have to lean the work against something, tilt the camera so that the edges of the work are square in the viewfinder; otherwise your work will be a trapezoid.
- Photograph the work against a neutral color, like white. Colored or patterned backgrounds distract the viewer and reflect color onto your piece.

### 2. Line-up your camera.

- The camera should face the artwork head-on. Line the lens up with the center of the subject. Make sure the plane of the artwork is parallel to the back of the camera.

### 3. Get closer.

- Fill the entire frame with your artwork to get the most out of your camera's resolution.
- BUT, do not fill the frame with a zoom or wide-angle lens. Both can distort images by zooming in closely.

### 4. Avoid glare and reflections.

- Glass reflects light avoid reflections and glare by photographing your work before it's framed. If you can't, angle the camera to minimize glare.
- If your work is oil or acrylic, photograph it before adding a glossy varnish.

## LIGHTING

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### 1. Indirect light is best when shooting indoors.

- Shoot in a room with plenty of windows and natural light, or, use natural light fluorescent bulbs. Avoid direct light since it creates hot spots.

### 2. Use cheap materials to diffuse light.

- Soften glare and the intensity of light by diffusing the light source. Place a white sheet over the light source whether that's a window or standing light. Or, direct your light source at an angle against a white piece of foam core to "bounce" and soften light.

### 3. Wait for a cloudy day if shooting outdoors.

- Why? Cloud cover acts as a giant diffuser. Your subject will be evenly lit.

### 4. But, be willing to embrace mid-day sunshine.

- If you're under a deadline and it's sunny out – no worries. Photograph mid-day (between 10am and 2pm) when the sun is high in the sky and will not cast any shadows. Early morning, late afternoon and evening light casts a reddish light.

### 5. Beware of colored walls and objects.

- Colored walls or large colored furniture reflected color(s) onto your art.

### 6. Avoid mixing light sources.

- Different lightbulbs give off different colors. And, unblocked windows let in light that is brighter than your indoor light, which will cast blue colors onto your work.

## EQUIPMENT

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### 1. Cell or tablet camera

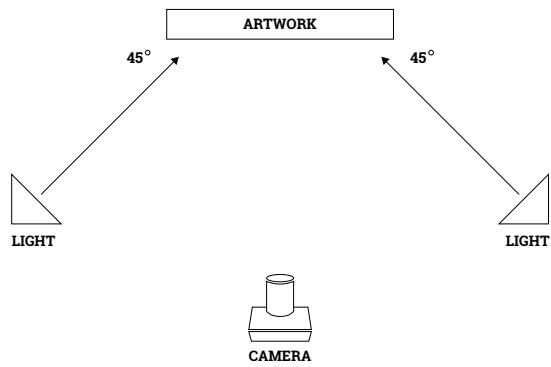
- There are mobile apps that can assist in photo editing if this is the equipment that you will be using: Adobe Lightroom Mobile (for iPhone), Adobe Photoshop Express, Afterlight, Apple Photos, Google Photos, PicsArt Photo Studio (for Android), Pixlr, Polarr, Polish, Snapseed, VSCO (this list is subject to change).

### 2. DSLR Camera

- If you don't own one, your Art teacher might have access to one you may borrow.

### 3. Use a Tripod to avoid blurry photos.

- If you don't have a tripod, prop your camera on something solid like a shelf.
- Don't have anything that's the right height? Use your body as a stabilizer. Stand or sit still; hold your elbows against your body; take a deep breath and release it before taking the picture.



#### 4. Two cheap standing lights will do.

- Tall “dorm lights” like these are useful and cheap light sources. Put a light on either side of your work. Situate the lights between the camera and canvas. Point them at a 45-degree angle towards the work to eliminate shadows.

#### 5. TIP: Clean your lens!

- Dust on the glass will mess with your camera’s automatic focus and may appear in the photo.

## CAMERA SETTINGS (DSLR CAMERA)

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### 1. Adjust the White Balance

- When you take photos of your works do they come out too warm or blue-toned? That’s because your camera is improperly reading and capturing the color white. Fix this by adjusting your white balance – the setting your camera uses to determine what color is white depending on the temperature of the ambient light.
- Set your white balance to “Cloudy” if you’re outside on a cloudy day. Set your white balance to “Daylight” on a sunny day.
- If you’re inside, set the white balance to match the kind of light you’re using, i.e. fluorescent or tungsten.

### 2. Use the Lowest ISO Setting

- Higher ISOs generates noise and grain in your image, so it is best to keep your ISO set as low as possible.

### 3. Use Aperture Priority Mode

- It’s recommended to set your aperture between f-8 and f-11. This allows for enough light and proper depth of focus.

### 4. Turn Flash Off

- The flash can create hot spots on your work.

## EDITING YOUR PHOTOS

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### 1. Color Correction

- The goal is to get your whites white and your blacks black. If your light source was different from the color settings on your camera, you’ll have to change the temperature of the image.

### 2. Cropping

- Crop so that your work fills the frame.

### 3. Resizing

- Images for the web should be 72 dpi and images for print should be 300 dpi. The minimum image size for online jurying is typically 1920 pixels on the longest side.