

TIPS TO TAKE GREAT PHOTOS *of Your Artwork*

You have spent a lot of time and energy producing meaningful art, so let's take a few minutes to learn how to best represent it with quality photographs.



CAMERA

- If you have access to a quality digital camera, use it at the lowest ISO setting and ensure it has a good autofocus.
- Choose auto balance or adjust the white balance according to the type of lighting in your space.
- Clean the camera lens and sensor before photographing your work.
- If you are familiar with photography and plan to digitally resize your work, be sure to select the "Raw" setting on your camera so you will have the highest quality photo possible.



SMARTPHONE

- You may not have camera options for ISO and white balance if using a digital phone to take photos.
- Clean the camera lens.
- Focus on the artwork by tapping the screen of your smartphone to focus the camera on the art. This will ensure focus and optimum light settings.
- When shooting with a smartphone, it is best NOT to zoom in. Set your tripod close enough to the artwork, so the art fills the frame with minimal empty space at the edges.



TRIPOD

- You will achieve the sharpest image focus when you use a tripod or other device for holding the camera with zero movement. If you do not have access to a tripod, then rest your elbows on a solid surface to prevent as much movement as possible.
- Set the tripod height to match the center height of your artwork.
- Position the tripod some distance from the work.
- Secure the camera to the tripod then zoom in to fill the frame (and focus on the artwork). If using a smartphone, secure the phone to the tripod and set it close enough to the artwork to avoid using the zoom feature.
- Use the timer feature on your camera or smartphone to ensure the camera does not shake when you depress the shutter button.



LIGHTING

- When possible, choose bright, natural light. Indirect light is best (position your work in front of a window or outside against the shaded portion of a building).
- If natural light is not an option, try natural light fluorescent bulbs.
- Do not use a flash.
- Avoid direct sunlight.



POSITIONING THE ARTWORK

- Select a neutral color background such as white or neutral grey.
- Avoid shadows on your work.
- Ensure your work is level against the wall or flat surface to avoid perspective distortion.
- Fill the frame with your work.
- Some journal pages may not lay flat for photographing, just do the best you can to represent the work well. If possible, use binder clips to hold pages flat if they are warped or curling. You might also stack heavy books on your journal for a day or two if pages are warped and need to be flattened.
- Take several photos so you can select the best one to share.



FILE NAMING

Name each photo with a similar naming system. A few examples are provided below:

- InBlue_acrylic_40x46_Christopher (*title, medium, dimensions, artist last name*)
- InBlue_acrylic_Christopher_2009 (*title, medium, name, date*)

Are you finished taking your photographs and ready to combine them into a single PDF?

Check out [Tips for Saving Multiple Images as a PDF!](#)

