



Photographing Art Workshop

SETUP

1. **Hang art on a wall (or vertical surface) to photograph.** This is the best option to get a properly 'square' image. If you are not taking the picture at a 90-degree angle, there will be distortion. You could make it square when you crop, but your image will not be the same as the painting.



2. **Use a tripod.** Make sure your camera lens is at the same height as the middle of the painting.
3. Chose a location where the **colours are most neutral.** You don't want bright coloured walls reflecting those colours onto the painting while you photograph it.
4. Photograph your art **before applying any gloss varnish.** The gloss will create reflections in the image. **Photograph before framing** if not using a 'floating' type frame.

LIGHTING

1. You want even, soft light.
2. Outdoors on a cloudy day will give good neutral even light. Glare and reflection can be a problem, so sunny days are not good for outdoors. Ideal outdoor conditions are often not available, so most of the time you will have to chose either **indoors with natural light** or **a light setup.** Avoid mixing nature light from a window with indoor 'yellow' lights.

CAMERA

1. DSLR or Point & Shoot can both take good pictures.
2. Do not use the flash.
3. Set your lens at about **50mm** or zoom out part way with a P&S. The point here is that you don't want to have the camera in a 'wide angle' mode. That will distort the image.

4. Set the Camera on '**Aperture Priority**'. You do this to take the photograph at F8 which is often a 'sweet spot' for sharp focus. A photo at F8 with a mid-zoom point is often the best a lens can be. (we are not worried about depth of field or camera shake – you are going to have a tripod and be taking a basically flat surface.)

5. Camera settings –

Set the aperture to **F8**.

ISO100. This is the best setting for keeping 'grain' for out of your image.

AWB – Auto white balance is usually best. Your camera will choose the best setting to compensate for light temperature.

Put the **delay shutter** on. You don't want to move the camera while pressing the shutter release button.

Exposure Compensation – Take shots with under and overexposed settings. See what is best.

6. Camera Position – Once your camera is on the tripod, adjust the height, so the lens is at midpoint to the painting. Move the tripod closer or farther from the painting until you have the painting 'fill the frame' with a little border. Make sure it looks square. (I like to use the 'Live View' mode on my DSLRs to see the painting in the frame.)

7. Leave the camera on Autofocus if possible.

8. Once you take the picture, review your photo in camera to see how it looks. Check that it is sharp by enlarging the review image.

9. Review your photo on a computer to see if any adjustments might improve the Image.

You can make slight adjustments to colour temperature with computer software.

Caution: Computer screens vary in how they show colour.