

Photographing Your Artwork

Taking great photos of your art helps show the world who you are as an artist! The goal is to *make your photo look as close to the real thing* as possible so that anyone viewing it can experience your art the way it's meant to be seen.

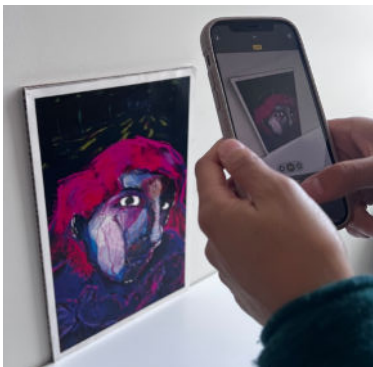
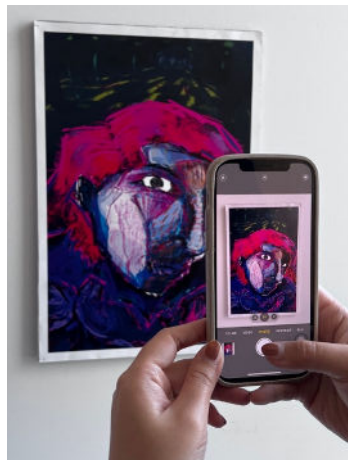
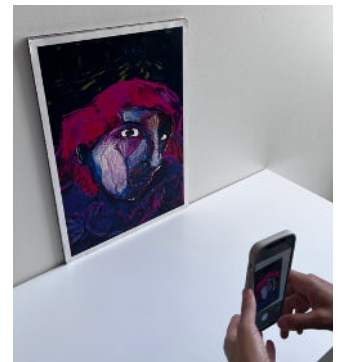
We've put together this quick guide to help you capture your artwork at its best. At the end of the day, it's your call how you want to capture your work. If you're looking for a little help getting started, here are some tips to make the process easier.

The Camera

Ideally, using a DSLR camera works best as it offers more options for photographing artwork and produces higher-quality results. However, you can also use a smartphone camera and **or a camera app that can shoot at a high resolution.**

The Set Up

- If you are shooting outdoors, an overcast, cloudy day with natural light is best (avoid direct sunlight). Clouds naturally soften the light, **which helps avoid** harsh shadows in your photos.
- If you are shooting inside, use a room with plenty of windows and soft, natural light.
- Use a solid, neutral background behind your artwork. Make sure to move any distracting objects or debris out of the way.
- Consider using a tripod for stability. If this is not available, lean the artwork up against a wall or hang it on the wall.
 - Tip: Increase the shutter speed to minimize shaking.
- Get close, position yourself directly in front of your work and aim your camera at its center.
- Keep the camera parallel to the artwork you are photographing. Use the grid overlay on your camera settings to help you keep it straight.



*Artwork created by Mariana Moreno Garcia (SIT Student 2025)

Try not to shoot above or below the artwork (see pictures), as this can make the artwork look distorted. Take several photos of the artwork so you have a few to work with.

- You should not use the flash option on your smartphone or camera as it can create glare and affect the appearance of your artwork.
- Leave the autofocus function on your camera or smartphone to help keep your artwork in focus.

Editing

- Using phone apps or other editing software, crop the edges of the image to tighten the composition, straighten the image and remove any background.
- Adjust the brightness, contrast, exposure and temperature if needed but ***keep it true to how your artwork looks in real life.***

More Helpful Guides

[How to Photograph Your Artwork](#)

[Photographing Your Artwork: Beginner Tips](#)

[Photographing Artwork for Your Digital Portfolio](#)

[Video Tutorial: How to Photograph Your Art](#)

[Video Tutorial: Documentation with a Cell Phone](#)