

## **Suggestions for Photographing Your Artwork**

### **General**

- In order for your artwork to be represented at its best, we recommend you submit your images(s) as a TIFF file (JPEGs risk compression during transmission) at 300 pixels per inch with a dimension of 10 inches on the longest axis. If you must submit a JPEG, please send at the highest possible resolution.
- If your submission is a digital photograph, there is no need to print and re-photograph it. You may send the digital file from your camera appropriately titled and following the same guidelines for other visual art.
- The Arts and Letters Awards Program is blind judging. If your signature is visible on your artwork, you must cover it before photographing.
- Artwork does not have to be framed before photographing.

### **Lighting**

- If possible, photograph your artwork outside when it is cloudy, as indirect light will show your work to the best advantage. If you must photograph inside, use bright, diffused natural lighting, such as near a window. Avoid overhead light.
- If there is glass on your work, we recommend you remove it to avoid glare and reflection. If you choose not to remove the glass, make sure it is clean.
- Make sure the flash is turned off.
- For three-dimensional artworks, a light source on one side will help illuminate texture.

### **Fill the frame**

- Avoid a cluttered background. Hang or prop your work so it is nearly vertical. Stand directly in front of it so the viewfinder is centered on the middle of the work. Line up the edges of the work with the inside edges of the viewfinder or screen frame, making sure there are no distortions of the artwork and the edges are straight and parallel.

### **Detail**

- A detail is a section of the artwork enlarged to show surface detail. The size of the section depends on what you want the adjudicators to see, such as texture and interesting brush work.
- Zoom in when you are photographing the detail. Do not crop the photo later or you will reduce the resolution.

### **Using a (non-phone) camera**

- If possible, arrange to borrow a DSLR or other good camera from a friend.
- While modern digital cameras are easy to use and provide great photos, invest a little time in learning how to use yours effectively by exploring features.
- Use a Microfiber cloth to clean your camera lens.
- If possible, avoid using auto-mode while shooting artwork.

- Take your photo with the lowest ISO (the camera's sensitivity to light) possible.
- Experiment with shutter speeds to match the colour of your art.
- Do not use a wide-angle lens; a zoom lens is recommended.
- A steady tripod will also make the job easier and your photographs sharper.

**For further elaboration on these tips and others, see the following link:**

- <https://dgillart.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/photographing-artartwork/>