



2660 Yonkers Road, suite E  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
(919) 832-9006  
Fax: (919) 832-3630

### Art Shipping Tips

There is no reason to be intimidated by the prospect of shipping art. Most pieces can be safely and economically transported if a few simple precautions are taken. The tips shown below are designed to help you overcome the most common problems that we see in shipping art for our customers.

- 1) **Plan ahead:** Waiting until the last minute will often force you to ship by air which significantly increases cost. We recommend that you plan on having the piece ready to ship a full 2 weeks prior to the date you need it at the destination.
- 2) **Understand the Basics of Packaging:** A basic packaging plan should include surface protection, cushioning, and outer protection.
  - a) Wooden crates provide excellent outer protection. They can also be made for re-use which saves money on future shipments. Keep in mind that they provide outer protection only so surface protection and cushioning are still required.
  - b) Be aware of light bulbs, loose parts or sub-assemblies that should be removed or secured before shipping.
  - c) Glass and ceramic materials generally require extra cushioning which increases both the cost of packaging and the cost of shipping, due to extra size and weight.
  - d) *Bubble wrap provides excellent cushioning but you should exercise caution in using it directly against natural surfaces as it can stick or leave patterns.*
- 3) **Transit Times:** High value or very fragile items should use a more expedited shipping method. The less time something spends in transit the less the risk of damage but the higher the costs.
- 4) **Delivery Conditions:** For extra large and heavy items make sure you know the delivery conditions and the delivery level of service.
- 5) **Climate Control:** Both climate controlled and non-climate controlled shipping is available. Non-climate controlled is sufficient and significantly less expensive in the vast majority of cases.
- 6) **Insurance:** Make sure you know the limitations of the insurance you are using. Some carriers will not take art if they know what it is. Some carriers require it to be in a wooden crate. Others will cap the size of your claim regardless of the value that you declare.
- 7) **Know When to Get Help:** Pieces that are extra large or heavy often require special delivery arrangements depending on the customer. Pieces that are extra large or highly fragile may require specialized packaging. Any pieces shipping internationally may require extra care to get through customs or to ensure that the desired type of delivery is obtained. Professional guidance can be extremely helpful in these types of situations.

