

## PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORK (For High Quality Images That Accurately Represent Your Work)

- LIGHT** -
- \*Diffuse, natural light is best (i.e., the easiest) to work with, indoors or out.
  - \*Very **BRIGHT** light is not necessary – or advantageous. So avoid direct sunlight.
  - \*Don't use the camera's flash! (unless you're an expert at it).
  - \*Be aware that light changes “color” throughout the day; and that there are other conditions that affect the color of natural light as well.
- CAMERA** -
- \*These days - for this purpose - a **digital camera** is best (i.e., the easiest) to work with.
  - \*Familiarize yourself with your camera: read your Owner's Manual! especially with regards to “film speed (ISO) settings” and “setting the ‘white balance.’”
  - \*Familiarize yourself with the camera's **ICONS**, especially those related to the flash, the self-timer, and the close-up setting on your lens.
- PROCEDURE** –
- \***REMOVE GLASS** from a 2D piece, if possible.
  - \*Make sure the camera (back; lens) is **PARALLEL** with the surface of a 2D piece.
  - \*Shoot the piece **STRAIGHT ON** (and not from an angle).
  - \*Pay strict attention to the **BACKGROUND** with 3D pieces.
  - \*Check to assure the light is **EVEN** across the surface of a 2D piece [see below ##].
  - \*Fill the frame (i.e., the viewfinder/rear LCD screen) as much as possible with the piece – but don't get so close that you crop off anything important!
  - \*Unless your work is unusually large, **DO NOT** use the *wide-angle* setting on your lens.
  - \*Use. A. Tripod. Purchase (or borrow) - and **USE!** - one if you want the best results.
  - \***FOCUS** your lens with great care. (Auto-focus lenses usually do this job well.)
  - \*Set the "white balance" (digital) -or use a slide film/filter- appropriate to the light source.
  - \*Use the camera's self-timer to take your pictures. Avoid pushing the button by hand, and possibly jarring the camera
- TIPS** -
- ##Place a plain piece of white foamcore/matboard, etc. in the exact position that your piece will be in. **SQUINT** your eyes; carefully check the light for evenness, shadows.
  - \*\*Use reflector(s) - foamcore, etc. - to even out the light if necessary (and it usually is!)
  - \*\*Use a small hand-mirror to assure precise camera alignment. Place the mirror where the exact center of the piece is going to be. If you can see the center of the camera lens in the center of the mirror when you look through the camera's viewfinder, the camera & the piece are parallel. Now, visually square off the edges, top, and bottom of the piece along the edges, top, and bottom of the viewfinder, and you're good to go!
  - \*\*With a digital camera, use the *viewfinder* to “square” the image; then use the *screen* on the back of the camera to frame/compose the image.
  - \*\*For extremely accurate color reproduction, place a Kodak Color Control Patch along the edge of your piece. Be sure to include it in the picture you take, as a reference.
- FILM?** -
- As stated, match your slide film to your light source - i.e., “Daylight” film for natural light, “Tungsten” film for photo flood lamps, etc. A good camera store can help you get this right.
- “Bracket” your exposures to help assure proper exposure. (Read the camera's Owner's Manual to learn how to perform this **critical procedure** w/ your particular camera.)
- If you have trouble focusing the lens on a manual film camera, **ADD LIGHT** (side light is usually the most helpful) to assist you. Remove the extra light before you shoot.