

DIGITAL

- Familiarize yourself with your camera: read your Owner's Manual, especially with regards to "ISO settings" and "setting the 'white balance.'
- Also, familiarize yourself with the camera's ICONS, especially those related to the flash, the self-timer, and the close-up setting on your lens.

- Set the "White Balance" appropriate to the light source.
- Use the *viewfinder* (if your camera has one) to "square" the image; then use the *screen* on the back of the camera to frame/compose the image.
- Use of a camera phone is not recommended.

PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORK

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.



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.
- Fill the frame (i.e., the viewfinder) 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!

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
- Use the camera's *viewfinder* to "square" the image. For even greater accuracy:
- 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

- Don't use the camera's flash! (unless you know what you're doing). Be aware that light changes "color" throughout the day; and that there are other conditions that affect the color of natural light as well.
- Use. A. Tripod. Purchase (or borrow) - and use it if you want the best results.
- FOCUS your lens with great care. (Auto-focus lenses usually do this job well.)
- Check the white balance appropriate to the light source. On a digital camera it is your "white balance" setting. Match your camera's white balance setting to your light source - i.e., "Incandescent" for flood lamps/light bulbs, "Fluorescent" for fluorescent lighting, "sunlight" for natural light. A good camera store can help you get this right.
- Use the camera's self-timer to take your pictures. Avoid pushing the button by hand, and possibly jarring the camera.

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!

- If you have trouble focusing the lens on a manual camera, ADD LIGHT (side light is usually the most helpful) to assist you. Remove the extra light before you shoot.

"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.)

Photographing Your Artwork – Resources (Raleigh as of 2010)

- Peace Camera, 421 W. Peace Street (across from Flythe Cycle) 836-2222 / www.peacecamera.com
- Southeastern Camera Supply, 2123 Atlantic Ave #100 (near the intersection with E. Whitaker Mill Road) 380-0440 / www.southeasterncamerasupply.com

HAVE IT DONE FOR YOU:

- JW Photo Labs, 620 N. West Street (near the intersection with Peace Street; one block from Glenwood Avenue; around the corner from Peace Camera) 919-832-0330 / www.jwphotolabs.com
- Doug Van De Zande, Van De Zande Photography, 428 S. McDowell Street, downtown 919-832-2499 / www.vandezandephoto.com

Equipment Rental

- Peace Camera (see above) – Call store for details.
- Staff will offer assistance on how to operate the camera and/or the tripod.
- Southeastern Camera Supply (see above) - Call store for details.

Online Resources (Photographing Your Artwork)

Google "photographing artwork" – there are many, sites

On YouTube search for *Otis: Digitally Photographing Your Own Two-Dimensional Art* and *Otis College: Digitally Photographing Your Own Three-Dimensional Art*

www.kenrockwell.com General Photography Tip