Photographing Your Art
Quick Reference Guide

Equipment List

• Camera, preferably a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR)
• Camera Support, preferably a tripod, but a table can also work
• Blue Painters Tape
• Adhesive Putty, also known as Sticky-Tack, Poster Putty, etc
• Light Fixtures (quantity: 2), suggestion: Home Depot's clamp light (#277-894, $8.50 ea)
• Matching Set of Light Bulbs, 100W incandescent
• Small Level or Level app

Indoor Camera Setup

1. Attach your black foam core to the wall with blue painters tape
2. Position your lights 45° from the wall, 5 feet away from the center of the board, around the same height that the art will be. *Recommendation: clamp lights to chairs*
3. Attach your artwork to the black foam core with the adhesive putty
4. Center your camera support on the artwork
5. Set camera mode to "P" and ISO to 100
6. Set the camera white balance to "Tungsten" or "Incandescent"
7. Turn off the flash on the camera, if it has one
8. Position your camera and check the vertical alignment with a level or app
9. Double check that the edges of the art are even with the edges of the image on the camera
10. Capture your image
11. If the image is dark, increase the exposure adjustment by 1/3 at a time

Adjusting the Image in Photoshop

1. Open your image
2. If you used a DSLR, use Photoshop's automatic lens correction:
    1. Open Lens Correction from Filter > Lens Correction
    2. Click the check boxes to enable "Geometric Distortion" and "Vignette"
    3. Click OK
3. Adjust the image brightness/tone
    1. Select "Auto Tone" from the "Image" menu
4. Optional: If you need to correct any additional distortion, open Lens Correction from Filter > Lens Correction, and use the adjustment tools and grid in the "Manual" tab
5. Open the Crop tool (keyboard shortcut: C)
    1. Click and drag a crop window around your piece of art, just inside the edge of the page
    2. Double-click inside of the cropped area to accept the crop
6. Save your image as a JPEG, max quality "12"
    1. If you need to reduce your file size, you can save as low as quality "8"

Free web-based alternatives to Photoshop, no sign-up required:
Pixlr http://www.pixlr.com/editor - It's like Photoshop, but on the internet, not great with color
Photoshop Express Editor www.photoshop.com Click on Tools -> Photoshop Express Editor, no lens correction options, but good for "auto" edits and cropping