

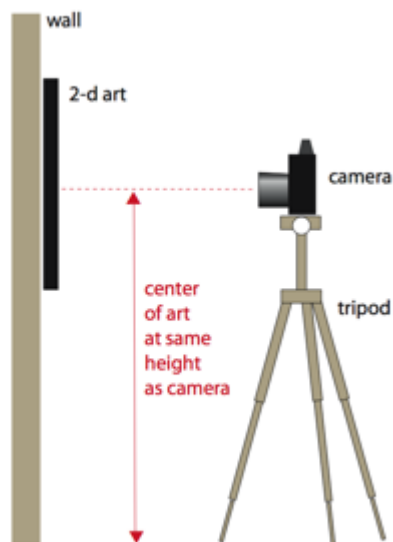
How to Photograph Artwork

What you need

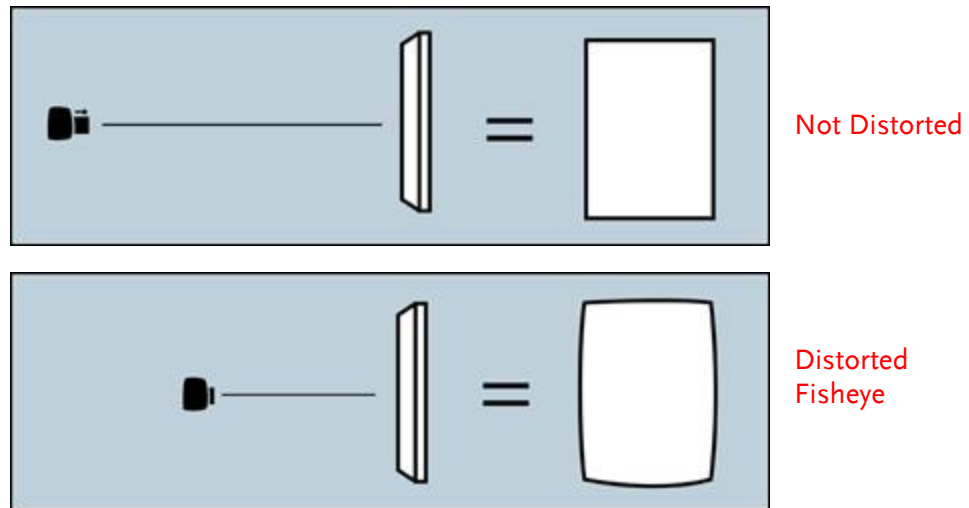
- Digital camera
- Tripod (if you don't have a tripod you can use any sturdy surface to place your camera)
- Window
- White foam board (larger than the artwork)
- Wall 90° from window
- Picture hanger/hook/nail
- Level (optional)
- Art!! (NOT under glass)

The Setup

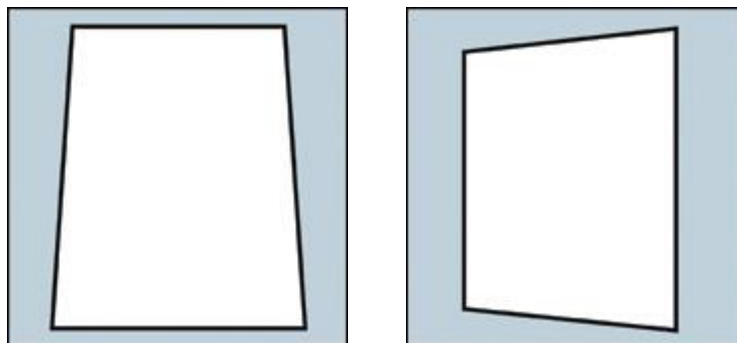
1. Hang artwork on a white wall.
2. Make sure you are only getting natural light from the window—Avoid direct sunlight and indoor lighting.
3. Set up your digital camera on a tripod, directly facing the artwork. Make sure the camera is straight and is align in the center of the artwork.



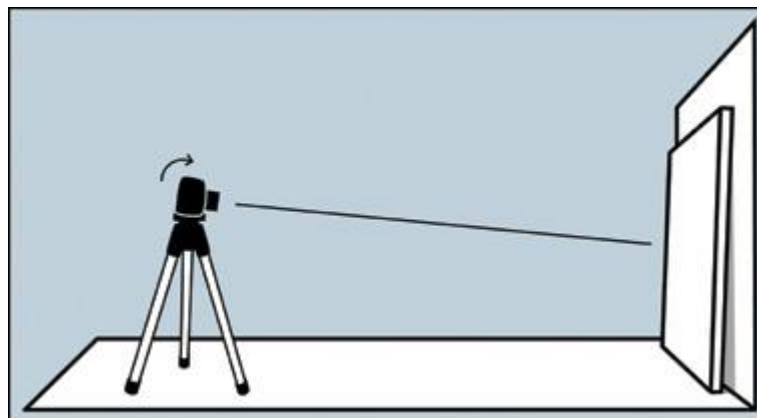
4. Avoid an image distortion, zoom in all the way and set camera back. This will help with avoiding any image distortion and will give more depth to your image.



5. Check viewfinder to see if edges are parallel. If the camera is not center directly in front of the artwork and camera is tilt from an angle, you will get an angle distortion on images.

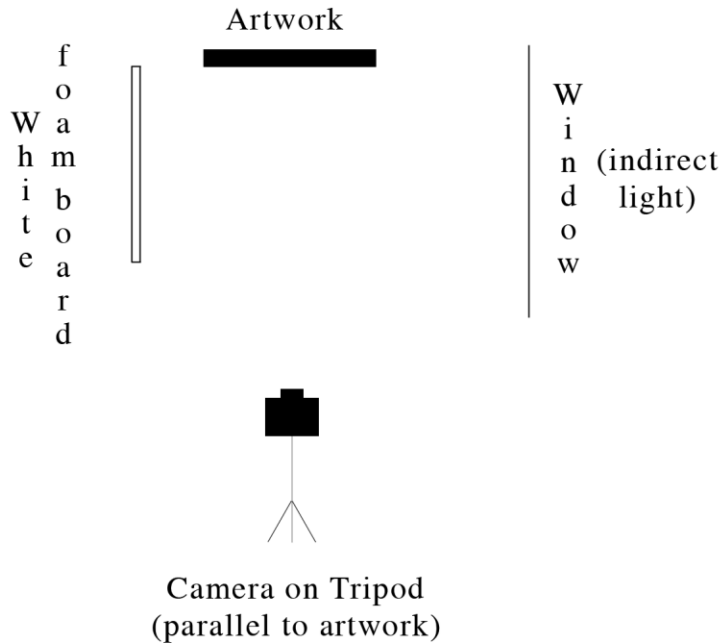


6. If artwork is not being photographed at a 90° angle, make sure to realign your camera according to artwork.



Lighting

7. Try using outdoor lighting by placing a white foam board parallel to the window and about 90° from the wall, so that the artwork will be in between the foam board and the window (see diagram). The white foam board will bounce the light for an even lite image. You can either place the foam board on a chair, or ask someone to hold it for you.



Camera Settings

8. Set your camera's resolution to the highest setting.
9. Set your exposure and check your lighting. Set your camera to aperture priority mode, with the aperture set to f/8
10. Set your camera's white balance. You can use the AUTO white balance setting on your camera, or even better, you can set a custom white balance. To do this, hold a white piece of paper in the place the artwork will be hung. Set your camera to the custom white balance feature. (Refer to your camera manual. The directions may be different.)
11. Focus! If you have the ability to lock the focus on your camera, then do it.
12. Fill the camera frame with the artwork. Do not crop anything out. It's ok to have extra space around the artwork; you can crop it on the computer.
13. Set the camera to self-timer mode. This will keep the camera from shaking when you take the picture. Also, if you don't have someone to hold your white foam board for you, this will allow you to hold it yourself.
14. Press the shutter release, and take your hands off of the camera, to avoid shaking. The timer will release the shutter.
15. View your picture on the LCD screen. You can check the exposure with a histogram to make sure it is not too dark or too light. You can't rely on the LCD screen for the proper exposure.

Review

- 1-6. Set up
7. Lighting
8. Set Resolution to highest setting.
9. Check lighting
10. Set white balance.
11. Focus
12. Straighten camera.
13. Set self-timer.
14. Take picture.
15. Review image.

Resource List

Art Supplies

Blick Art Materials
7301 West Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: (323) 933-9284
www.dickblick.com

Blick Art Materials
11660 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: (310) 477-0451
www.dickblick.com

Photography Supplies (for cameras)

Samy's Camera
431 S. Fairfax Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: (323) 938-2420
www.samys.com

Calumet Photographic
1135 N. Highland Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90038
Phone: 323-466-1238
www.calumetphoto.com

Office Supplies

(for white foam board or poster board)
Office Max (various locations)
Staples (various locations)

EmptyEasel. Illustrated Images, "How to Photograph your Artwork for a Portfolio or the Internet" (2007), (<http://emptyeasel.com/2007/01/19/how-to-photograph-your-artwork-for-a-portfolio-or-the-internet/>)