Tips for photographing your artwork

1. Hang pictures on a wall

- Place your artwork flat against a surface with a front and center shot of the work.

- Find a neutral colored wall (white, black, gray) and hang your work so that the centre/middle of the work is parallel to your camera.

2. Sculptures

- Put your sculpture up against a neutral background or wall.

- If possible, light the sculpture by using two lights (one on either side of the piece). Try your best to eliminate shadows by lighting the sculpture from all angles.

3. Lighting is key
- Natural light is the best for photographing works.
- You can use a room with plenty of windows or go outdoors.
- If you go outdoors, try to do so on an overcast or cloudy day. These days are the ideal times to shoot outside because indirect sunlight provides the best light.
- For paintings or two-dimensional (flat) artworks, place lights halfway between the camera and the art at a 45-degree angle, pointing at the wall.
- LIGHT HACK: If you don't have a professional lighting kit, you can diffuse the light with a white sheet or white plastic between the lights and your work. This helps to evenly distribute the light. You want to eliminate shadows and glares as much as possible.
- If you have a sculpture, you may want to use two lights to capture everything and eliminate shadows. Clamp lights are nice to work with because they are easy to place and move around. Lamps with bulbs that have adjustable movement are also ideal.

4. Adjust your camera and settings
- For art hanging on the wall, make sure the camera lens lines up with the middle of the painting. You want to position your camera so that the frame is filled with most of the painting, with a bit of background that you can crop out later.
- The ISO and aperture of your camera are very important to get clear, crisp and bright images of your artwork. ISO references what film speed used to measure. The higher the number, the more sensitive the film was to light and the coarser the image. In this case, since we want very crisp images, we want a low ISO. Studio shots will generally be shot at ISO 100.
- The f-stop of the aperture of your camera adjusts how much light is let through the lens by making the opening bigger or smaller. The higher the number, the less light is being passed through. With a DSLR the ideal range for shooting artworks is between f-8 and f-11. TIP: Set your camera's timer to four or five seconds so that pressing the shutter button doesn't create a shake in your image.

5. Editing photographs
- There are plenty of free or inexpensive photo editing software alternatives out there that will help minimize any inconsistencies. Photoshop is definitely one of the best, but there are plenty of free photo editing apps you can use.
- Do not over edit – we want to see your artwork as if we could see it in person.

For more info and/or tips, see https://www.aapgh.org/blog/photography-tips