PREPARING ART FOR COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

Proper presentation of your art is critical! Even if your art is well executed, a juror or gallery may reject it if it is not properly presented. Always read the presentation and submission guidelines carefully. Deadlines and details are important. Here are some practical presentation tips:

MAT

The mat must extend at least 1/8" over the edge of the artwork on each side. The margins of the mat should be the same on the top and sides, but slightly more on the bottom to compensate for an optical illusion. If the mat is the same on all sides, the bottom will look smaller.

BACK OF ART

Minimum 1 1/4" from frame to wire.

Use only BRAIDED FRAMER'S WIRE

Screw eyes or ring-type eyes should be about 1/4 to 1/3 the distance down from the top of the frame.

DO NOT USE A SAWTOOTH HANGER!

PAINTING ON STRETCHED CANVAS

A painting on stretched canvas does not need to be framed if the sides of the canvas are nicely finished. NO STAPLES should be visible!

MATS AND FRAMES

Select a mat and frame that complement your art. Keep it simple. A conservative white or ivory mat is often a better choice than a colored mat. Think of the scale and character of your art when you select a frame. Visit a gallery and study the mats and frames selected by professional artists. You can save money by ordering pre-cut frame pairs and assembling the frame yourself. Two reliable sources are:

American Frame 800-537-0944
www.americanframe.com
Graphic Dimensions 800-221-0262
www.pictureframes.com

Check out frame advertisers in art magazines.