GUIDELINES FOR 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:

**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 presentation choices preferred by professional artists. You can save money by ordering framing from these reputable sources:

Dick Blick  
800-828-4548  
www.dickblick.com

Graphic Dimensions  
800-221-0262  
www.pictureframes.com

American Frame  
800-537-0944  
www.americanframe.com

**METAL FRAMES**

On back of frame:  
Metal spring clips hold art in place. Depress spring and slide between frame and art. Use screw mounted wiring systems.

**FRAMED ART CROSS-SECTION**

| FRAME | glass or plexi mat art backing |

| MAT | The mat should extend at least 1/8” over the edges of the artwork unless the art is "floated." 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. |

| BACK OF ART | Minimum 1 ¼” from frame to wire  
Use only BRAIDED FRAMER’S WIRE  
Screw eyes or ring-type eyes should be about ¼ to 1/3 the distance down from the top of the frame. |

| SAWTOOTH HANGERS | Sawtooth hangers are not accepted in this gallery. |

**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!