

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR PAINTINGS

More and more often painters are asked for digital images of their paintings, whether it is for publicity for an exhibition or to enter an open exhibition on line. No matter how good the painting to be photographed is if the photograph to be sent is of poor quality it will not get a viewing. If your photographs of your paintings resemble those below or you are unsure of how to go about photographing your work then the following article by Rosie McClelland will help you.

Taking Digital Images of Pastel Paintings

1. Take photographs of work before framing where possible to prevent reflections.
2. Outside in daylight is best– choose a good bright day but not too sunny. Make sure there are no cast shadows across your work.
3. If photographs have to be taken inside set up close to a window or light the painting well. Try not to use flash.
4. Set the painting upright on an easel or equivalent. Ensure the camera is positioned square on in order to avoid skewed or receding edges. If you have a shaky hand set the camera on a tripod or table. Alternatively if a painting isn't too large lay it on the ground and stand over it with feet astride and again make sure the edges of the painting are parallel to the sides of the viewfinder or LCD screen.
5. For framed work set the camera up in front of a dark background (black sheet or paper) and wear dark clothes in order to reduce reflections. Clean the Glass! A polarising filter also helps to reduce glare.
6. Try various exposures and choose the one that most resembles the tonal quality and colours of the Painting.
7. When attaching images to emails you may have to reduce the size of your photograph, approximately 640 pixels x480 pixels is a good guide. Some cameras have a function for reducing an image to be Attached to an email.