

## **Notes on photographing your work for Steyning Arts**

*One of the benefits of being a member of Steyning Arts is being able to promote your work through our website and publicity materials. For this we need good quality photos.*

*The following notes offer advice on how to take good photos of your work. Most of it is designed for non-experts, but there is a section at the end for those familiar with photo editing, and also a helpful You Tube video.*

### **What Steyning Arts expect from your photos:**

For new member applications, and images for our website we request that photos are;

- taken from an appropriate angle with all parts of the work included,
- in focus,
- properly exposed,
- colour balanced to ensure the colours of the art work are as close as possible to the original artwork,
- framed (or cropped) to ensure no irrelevant detail is included, such as distracting backgrounds or borders.

In addition, photos sent as part of the membership application process, or for use on the website, should be saved as a **jpeg** and resized to **1200 pixels** along the long edge if possible. If you are unsure of how to resize your photos you may find this website is a helpful tool as it will do it for you; <https://bulkresizephotos.com/en>

### **Advice to help you achieve good quality photos of artwork:**

- a) Choose your best camera. Most modern phones have high quality cameras now, but a proper camera is still a good option if you have one. Use a tripod if you can get hold of one.
- b) Set your camera on its highest definition setting – it should be producing .jpg image files that are at least 1 MB per photo (cameras often have a “fine jpeg” setting). Reduce and resize the photos to make them suitable for a webpage afterwards, keeping a copy of the original sized photo on your computer.
- c) Choose an evenly and well-lit space with a colour of light as close as possible to daylight, such as a room with a big window. Photographing outside on a gently overcast day, or in a shady location at midday can work well (but not dappled shade), especially from Spring to late Summer. If photographing inside or with artificial light, use some form of diffuser to ensure the light distribution is as even as possible – for example a large sheet of white card to bounce the light off.
- d) For 2D work position your camera so that it is as perpendicular to the piece as possible. Photograph work before mounting behind glass, or you will struggle with

reflections.

e) For 3D work create a suitable background for the work with a simple and neutral surface and background. Photograph one piece at a time, rather than a whole collection. That way you can ensure everything is in focus.

f) Compose the image in the camera viewfinder and rearrange as necessary. Examine carefully to ensure there are no unwanted reflections or distracting highlights, the perspective is as you intend, and there are no irrelevant details cluttering up the shot.

g) Focus extra carefully before you take the shot, and check the images in the viewfinder afterwards to make sure they are in focus and not too dark or light and that the subject is reasonably evenly illuminated.



h) Download the images to your computer. To avoid confusion, it is helpful if you rename the files with your name and an image number – so for example, JoeBloggs01.jpg, JoeBloggs02.jpg, etc.

The following YouTube video will show you some of this advice in action and is a helpful reference tool.

### **Editing the photos**

Using most photo editing software you should be able to;

- Crop images to get precisely the framing you want
- Adjust the levels of light and dark within the photo
- Correct the colour balance: Indoor light and artificial light are different colours to natural light, so it is ideal if you correct this. You can do this by placing a small sheet of plain white card alongside the artwork as a white balance reference point. Take two photos, a test image with the card in place, and a final image without. Once uploaded to the

computer you can use the test image to guide you in the corrections you need to make to correct the colour balance.

### **Would you like professional help with your photos?**

Steyning Arts member and professional photographer Frank Bull would be happy to take commissions to photograph your work, and has a price list specifically for Steyning Arts members.

Please contact him directly at: [frank@frankbullphotographer.co.uk](mailto:frank@frankbullphotographer.co.uk). Or tel 07914 211888.

Our team of volunteers who help to manage the website can usually help artists to correct and resize images if this is beyond your current capability. Please feel free to send an email letting us know if you require extra help with this.