

## **Photographing Artwork with Phones**

To photograph art with a cell phone, use bright, indirect, natural light (like an overcast day) and position the art parallel to the camera to avoid distortion. Use a tripod or keep the phone steady, turn off the flash, and use the timer to prevent blur. Edit by adjusting brightness, contrast, and reducing saturation for true colors.

### **Lighting and Setup**

- **Best Light:** Use bright, indirect natural light. An overcast day is ideal to avoid harsh, direct sunlight that creates hotspots, especially for glossy work.
- **Avoid Mixed Light:** Do not mix daylight with tungsten indoor lights, as this creates yellow or blue color casts.
- **Even Lighting:** Place the artwork on a wall or floor. If lighting is uneven, use a white foam board to bounce light into darker, shadowed areas.
- **Avoid Flash:** Never use the camera's built-in flash, as it will create a bright, reflective glare in the center of the image.

### **Camera Setup and Alignment**

- **Parallel Position:** The camera lens must be perfectly parallel to the surface of the artwork to prevent "keystoning" or skewed angles.
- **Use a Tripod:** A tripod is highly recommended to keep the phone steady and ensure consistent, professional alignment.
- **Gridlines:** Turn on the grid feature on your phone to help align the edges of the artwork with the frame, ensuring it is perfectly straight.
- **Avoid Zooming:** Instead of using the zoom function (which reduces quality), physically move closer to the artwork.
- **Steady Shot:** If you don't have a tripod, use a 2-second or 3-second timer to allow the camera to stabilize after you press the button.

### **Editing for Accuracy**

- **Apps:** Use editing apps like VSCO, Lightroom, or the built-in editor.
- **Crop and Straighten:** Crop out everything except the artwork. Use the straightening tool to correct any slight, lingering angles.
- **Adjust Exposure/Colors:** Increase the brightness (exposure) slightly to make the image "pop".
- **Reduce Saturation:** If the colors look too intense or "warm," slightly reduce the saturation and adjust the white balance to match the original piece.