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## EXHIBITION STANDARDS

# CLARIFICATION OF FRAMING OF 2D ARTWORK

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*Presentation is a key component of the exhibit. Safety is a key component of the exhibit.*

### Framing

- Artwork under glass requires metal, wood or composite frames with fitted glass and hanging hardware.
- Floating and regular frames, with liners, are suitable. Plastic frames are not suitable.
- Thin canvases, less than 3/4", and panels are to be framed.
- Unframed canvas (3/4" and deeper) requires painted wrap around edges.
- No staples or threads are to be visible on the side of any canvas and no tape is to be used.
- Bulky folded corners must be as flat as possible with no gaps showing between canvas and frame.

### Hanging Hardware for Canvas Framing

- All canvas hanging hardware must be attached properly and be hidden on the back of the artwork.
- Proper hanging hardware (coated wire, D rings, offset canvas clips) are generally available at art supply stores or online.



D-rings and offset  
canvas clips

## Method

1. Measure about 1/3 of the distance down from the top of the frame and set D rings in place.
2. Attach coated wire (uncoated wiring ends must be wrapped in tape).
3. The centre point of the wire, when pulled up, should be about 1\3 distance up to the top of the frame.
4. Offset canvas clips hold canvases and panels in place; use at least two on opposite sides.



**Example:** D-ring placement, wiring, offset canvas clips, staples on back, no gaps between canvas & frame.



Offset canvas clip placement



D-ring with coated wire twisted back around itself for about 1 inch.  
Before cutting your wires, leave enough room for the twist back.  
Uncoated wire must be taped on the ends to prevent injury.

### Other Notes

- Do not use string or household wire.
- Loose wiring will cause tilting when hung.
- Tight wiring will make hanging less manageable for the volunteers.

## Artwork Under Glass

This would generally include watercolours, pastels, pencil and ink drawings.

- Sturdy and secure frames are required to support the heavy glass.
- The mats are to be acid-free heavy card.
- The work must be matted and securely attached to the mat, preferably with archival tape.

## Wooden Frames

- Best prepared by a professional. Should have a new and clean appearance.
- Corners must be secure, tight, and exact.
- The work, mat, and backing must be securely fastened inside the frame.
- The back of the frame should have a paper dust cover.
- D-rings must be used for attaching plastic-covered hanging wire.



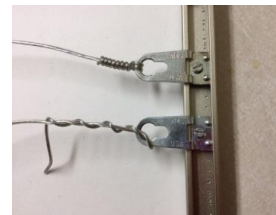
D-rings



D-ring placement



Wire attachment



Good & Not Good

- Do not use eyelet screws—they are not as secure.



- The wire must be neatly and securely attached
- Protective buttons are to be attached to the rear bottom corners of the frame



Larger paintings would, of course, need heavier and stronger frames and hardware.

## Aluminum Frames

- These may be assembled by the artist, but must be professional-like quality.
- Use frames of channel aluminum and a screw-fastened euro hanger. (Fig. 1)
- Corners must be securely fastened with screws and be precisely aligned. (Fig. 2)
- Sharp, out of alignment, corners will not be approved.
- Figure 3 shows a tidy and untidy fastening; the tidy one looks better and is likely more secure.



Figure 1



Figure 2

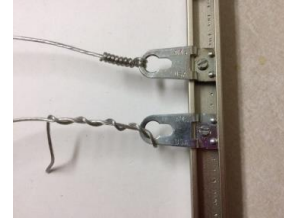


Figure 3

## Glass

- Must be properly sized for the frame and without cracks or blemishes.
- Must be clean both sides, and finger and handprints must be removed.
- Mat, glass and backing must be securely attached in the metal frame by spring clips.
- Protective buttons are to be attached to the rear bottom corners of the frame.



Clips



Clip placement



Protective button