

# Taking photos of your work



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# Photographing your work

## Don't underestimate the impact of a good photo

You've spent hours creating your masterpiece, and taking a quick snap is not going to show your piece in its best light. So here are a few tips for taking great photos without having to spend money on special equipment. If you have a great camera then that's great, but many of us rely on our smart phone and that is absolutely fine.

- The best place to take your photo is actually outside, not in bright sunshine but slightly overcast, however, this isn't always practical, rain, wind, dust, etc can damage your work so good lighting inside is important.
- Choose a room where you have good natural light, or where you have good lighting - daylight bulbs will give you the best results.
- Choose somewhere where you aren't going to get odd shadows. I like to photograph my work in my northeast-facing studio, the light is more consistent and I don't tend to get shadows as I do in my southwest-facing kitchen.
- I have photography soft boxes that I use for drawing, and they are perfect for taking photos as the light is diffused and I use daylight lamps. You don't need something as big as that though, clip-on lights work very well.
- Beware spotlights in the ceiling, they tend to be extremely bright and also cast odd shadows, better to have directional lights so you can move around to get the best effect.
- Set your piece up so it's flat - either on a table or on a wall - a table is probably easier. By setting your piece up on a flat surface it's easier to get the angle of the photo correct.
- If you're using your smartphone really concentrate on the angle of the phone - it's very easy to have the phone slightly on an angle, and this is what gives distorted-looking images, so spend some time getting the angle of your phone correct.
- Check the focus, and check the exposure. Smartphones usually do everything for you, but you might want to darken your image - particularly if you're using a dark background or lighten it.
- You want your photo to look like your original drawing so take some time to get the exposure correct, however, don't worry too much as you can edit it after.
- Once your photo has been taken, compare it to your original drawing. Do you need to make any adjustments?
- With smartphones, because of the quality of the camera they pick up on everything, so don't be too disappointed if your photo looks sharper and grainier than the original - this is called digital noise and can be easily edited (iPhones have a tool you can use, I don't know about Android phones)
- Use your editing tools to adjust exposure, light, shadows, highlights, black point, saturation, and vibrancy, among other tools plus iPhones have a noise reduction tool that will help smooth your piece. Beware of editing your photo to make it look better than the original however as that is not a route you want to go down.

# Some lighting examples

## Floor standing soft boxes

These are from Amazon, aren't hugely expensive and are fabulous for studio work and photography



## Studio Lamp and stand

From Amazon, great if you don't have much space.



## Duolamp with clamp

From Jacksons's Art



# Don't just take one photo...

Take advantage of your set up and take multiple photos of your artwork

- Take a full shot in square mode - great for instagram and facebook posts
- Take a shot in 4:3 or 16:9 mode - great for social media stories
- Take different angles
- Take close ups
- Take with props - so some pencils lying around etc
- Take a photo with you in the frame too

The reason you want to take lots of shots is so that you have more content for social media, not just the same image.

Treat taking your photos during work in progress stage and the final piece as carefully as you would when you were creating the piece.



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