

ARTWORK CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

A piece of art is a timeless investment and the art collection often is a representation of oneself. Each artwork is original, unique and cannot be recreated; it requires careful care and maintenance to protect from natural aging damage and will help maintain its splendor, shine, longevity and value.

As a general rule, it is advisable not to interfere with the painting. All shiny, high glossy or varnished surfaces (i.e. wood, bakelite, marble, metal, crystal, glass, resin etc.) are sensitive and susceptible to being scratched or marked, when not handled properly; the darker and the shinier the surface is, the more obvious it becomes. Even though resin is a very costly, qualitative and highly durable material, proper care is still necessary as the surface of the artwork could also be scratched or marked due to improper use.

If needed to be stored, make sure you do not bring in touch with items that could cause a potential color migration towards the painting and do not lean anything against the front of the artwork.

2. CLEANING & PROTECTION

When necessary use a soft cloth to lightly wipe the dust off. To remove dust in textured areas, use a soft microfiber or non-residue compressed air.

Do not use harsh materials and do not scratch so as to keep the 3D effect and its shiny, glossy finishing.

Do not use alcohol, detergents, chemical or abrasive cleaners and avoid spraying directly onto the face of the painting.

There are pieces which are infused with precious stones, crystals or diamond particles (diamond dust), which may be sharp. In the fragile or heavily textured pieces you should be wearing gloves while handling.

3. HEAT & LIGHT SOURCES

Although artworks are made of highest quality UV resin, it is always recommended to keep out of all sources of heat (sunlight, heating) so as to retain the longevity.

In brief:

- Keep out of direct sunlight and sources of heat (i.e. not over the heater)
- Use a soft cloth to lightly wipe the dust off when necessary.
- Do not use harsh materials and do not scratch.
- No alcohol, detergents, chemical or abrasive cleaners.
- Wear gloves when handling the artwork.

** In case of a special query, please contact us so as to get a professional consultation and guidance from a Fine Arts Restorer professional.*

4. LIGHTING

Light is essential for the perception and appreciation of art and lighting an artwork the right way can accentuate its visual appreciation and standout quality. Nevertheless, aside from aesthetic factors and highlighting it in the optimum way, a key concern is to ensure its longevity.

If your artwork is made of a glass-like surface or if it is framed behind glass, the angle of the lighting is to be adjusted in order to reduce glare. Works of art including texture, should be lit in a way that textures and embossings are emphasized and endorsed so as to highlight and stress the special 3D effect that the surfaces create, as well as make the artwork not seem flat. A 30 degrees angled lighting is considered appropriate to reduce glare, though in case of special textures subtract 5 degrees to highlight them properly.

A. Natural light

Only highest quality UV resin is being used, but it is still recommended to make sure that pieces are positioned away from direct sunlight as it carries risks of excessive heat and UV radiation. The most destructive form of light is not visible but can be very damaging to the works of art. Placing artwork in direct sunlight exposes it to Ultraviolet (UV) light and infrared (IR) light, may hurt fine art over time and result in gradual damage (i.e. fading, yellowing, discoloration). Although artworks are made of highest quality UV resin, it is always recommended to keep out of all sources of heat (sunlight, heating) so as to retain the longevity.

B. Artificial light

In general, a light source for your artwork should be three times brighter than the lighting of the room.

The lighting parameter is also taken into serious consideration in the art galleries, where lighting also is a sensitive topic in order to protect the exhibits from radiation damage. Likewise, the same rationale lies in the practice of not allowing various lighting equipment at many major, renowned art galleries.

Good quality LEDs from a reputable manufacturer generate a better light distribution and are perfect for colored and heat sensitive artworks as they don't emit ultraviolet (UV) or infrared (IR) radiation; most importantly, LEDs do not emit the heat produced by halogens and incandescent bulbs which can damage delicate artworks if placed near them.

C. Artificial light options

Some of the lighting options would be the following:

1. Ceiling-mounted accent lights (for making your art the focal point)
2. Flexible tracking lights (ideal for a constantly changing display)
3. Recessed ceiling fixture (for a "clean" look)
4. Applique wall light (for putting the light source right above the painting)
5. Add-on led backlighting (for a glowing effect, more depth and a three dimensional look as well as a modern, minimal, ambient look in limitless dimmable color options).

The back lit mounting, which I use and adapt at larger pieces, is ideal for the works I create as it is atmospheric, minimal, modern, gives depth and another dimension as the work looks as if it's "floating", while it completely changes the whole feeling it evokes through countless dimmable color options with a simple use of remote control.

Regardless of any light source you may use (e.g. spotlights), the back lighting is interrelated. You may be switching to the "back led lighting" whenever you opt for a more atmospheric and ambient lighting. (It is not visible as it is placed on the back of the painting, so even when another light source is used, the back lighting equipment is concealed).

5. FRAMING

Your art deserves a prime position so as to be embraced and get treasured. When curating the paintings, be it a statement piece either solo or part of a diptych/ triptych, incorporate by taking into consideration where they will thrive.

Frameless

Not every work of art needs to be framed; for many contemporary paintings, framing is optional, especially since there is power on the edges, they are interrelated to the painting directing the viewer's attention and are often part of the "narrative". The side parts are integral part of the painting, its story, its entity. They are an intrinsic part of the artwork adding character and giving a certain mood.

Unframed canvasses give a sleek, modern, and "clean" look which accentuates and promotes an abstract, minimal painting and perfectly blends with contemporary as well as more classic setting.

Custom-made float mounting with led backlighting

As many of my paintings evoke a more abstract, ethereal and elusive character, they look best frameless or in minimal, unembellished frames. A free-moving, stand-alone composition makes its own statement by being also visually elevated on a mounting, rather than restrained, restricted or enclosed in common framings as they contradict their very essence.

I have therefore designed an elegant, custom framing offering which elevates and adds value to the artwork. A minimal, differentiated, custom-made, luxurious, lacquered mounting with the intention to be more of an integral part of the composition, which brings the painting on the spotlight by literally leveling it up on the front whilst leaving the edges revealed. The sides are part of its story, its entity and they further enhance the artist's intent for the specific artwork.

Referring to the "frameless" option and in order to further enhance the larger scale artworks, I give the option of backlighting equipment (**with dimmable led lights**).

See more in "Add-on led backlighting" (in 4C).

6. HANGING

The artwork merges with the setting creating a new artefact. It is the artwork that shapes and gives breath to the space, as well as the space that helps the artwork unveil its hypostasis, its essential nature.

Before finalizing the position to place the artwork, take into consideration:

- **Optimal positioning:** Consider if it is a stand-alone piece or part of a synthesis as well as your background, so as to effectively create a focal point in the room. Individual pieces usually stand out and are more of a gallery approach.
- The optimal viewing (**eye level**): By placing the center of the artwork at eye level, it ensures the art can be admired comfortably. Though, if you have a house with higher ceilings you don't have to place all your art at eye level; for example a large and open two storey room presents an opportunity to add artwork higher than normal in harmony with the overall setting.
- **Sunlight and heat:** keep away from direct sunlight and heat sources as they negatively affect art pieces
- **Hanging vs leaning art:** Decide whether you prefer a "hanging" or "leaning art" approach
- **Wall:** Mind the wall composition (brick, concrete, timber, plaster, stone, Gyproch/drywall/gypsum board etc). Weak or improper walls are not recommended for heavy and/or large scale statement pieces.
- The **weight** of the painting: Make sure you use the right hardware and fixtures that suit the weight of the artwork.
- **Hanging hardware:** Consider the hanging system which is appropriate (steel nails, screw anchors, J-hooks or rail system and whether you will use wire or not), as well as your preference. For a piece placed straight and flat on the wall, wire is not recommendable, you may opt for D rings. For heavy pieces or an all-around solution for hanging multiple works, you may consider a cable hanging rail kit. A hanging rail system is the most reliable, it doesn't damage the wall, it can be mounted on any wall surface and is versatile as you may install on any type of wall and adjust the position and height as often as you want and without any signs on the wall.
- **Aesthetics:** Aesthetics-wise, hanging rail system gives an evocative, emotive, captivating feeling and museum-like look, upgrading and adding value to the artwork.
- **Safety:** Each hanging system has different weight tolerance on different wall types and only a professional could safely advise. Make sure you hang your artwork properly with a hanging system that allows for the appropriate weight of your artwork, covering you even in case of earthquake or human interference. Likewise, it may be dangerous if one randomly or accidentally hammers a nail on a spot where there may be electrical wires underneath the wall. Therefore, a professional help will protect yourselves as well as your art.

In any case, please make sure you **talk to a technician and get professional guidance before hanging any artwork.**