



Leicester
Museums
& Galleries



How to Photograph your Work

A guide on how to photograph your work so it looks the best it can be in the judging process.

Why do I need to photograph my work?

Photographs of your work are what the judges use to decide if your work should be put through to the exhibition. We cannot view each artwork in person, so we use photographs instead. Therefore, it is important that you provide us with the best possible image of your work, so it can be judged fairly and accurately. It is difficult to understand what an artwork looks like if it is blurry, has reflections or shadows in the photograph of it.

What sort of camera do I need?

You need a camera that you can hold steady and one which can cope with different lighting conditions. You can use your mobile phone. You do not need a large, expensive camera.

What do I need to think about before taking a photograph?

Consider the lighting of your location. Strong indoor lights have a yellow cast and can alter the colours of your work. Try to photograph in daylight, preferably an overcast day. This provides an even light, which is not too strong and does not alter the colours in your work too much.

Also, try to keep the camera as stable as possible. The best way to do this is to get a stabilising structure, like a tripod.

How many images do I need?

You will only need one image, as you can only submit one artwork.

If you are submitting 2D work, you will need to submit one image. If you are submitting 3D work, you will need to submit two images.

What size image should my image be?

To ensure sufficient quality, your digital image needs to be a minimum of 1000 pixels and a maximum of 3000 pixels along the longest edge (with a maximum file size 5MB). All images of works must be saved in a jpeg/jpg format.

How do I photograph my work?

Here are few tips on how to get the best image. These tips are useful for 2D and 3D work:

Hold the camera parallel to the artwork. This avoids distortion.

Do not hold the camera too close, this can cause the image to bow. Hold the camera at a distance then zoom in slightly if you need too.

Avoid reflections as they distort the image.

Make sure the camera is focussed. If the image is not in focus, it produces a blurry image. This makes it difficult to judge the artwork at the selection process.

Try to get the whole image in the picture frame, plus space around the edges – do not worry about cropping. The image can be cropped after taking the photo.

Do I need to edit the image before sending it?

You may wish to crop the image. If you crop the image there are two choices: It can be cropped to include some of the background. This looks best if the background is plain.

Or the image can be cropped to fill the screen, completely removing the background. This is best if the background is distracting.

Avoid editing the colours of the image too much as it can wrongly represent the artwork you are submitting.

Do not add watermarks or copyright on the work. This obscures the image.

Naming your file

We request that the jpeg/jpg filename begin with the initials of the artist in capitals, underscore and then the title of the work in lower case. E.g. Joe Bloggs enters an artwork called Leicester Landscape should be titled 'JB_leicesterlandscape.jpeg'.