

Tips on Taking Your Own Digital Pictures

The best way to take your own pictures of your art is to do it outdoors on an overcast day. This eliminates the glare issue from either the sun or a flash. If you're in a pinch for time and a clear day is all you've got to work with, take the photos in full shade and adjust the colors in Photoshop later. It is better than having a glare spot.

Set the camera to take images with the highest quality setting (highest dots per inch, or dpi).

Put the art on an easel as straight up and down as possible (perpendicular to the ground) and have the camera on a tripod. If you don't have a tripod, put the camera on something that will hold it stationary. Take the pictures as straight on and square to the art as possible, and filling the image area of the camera's view with the art as much as you can. This helps to eliminate backlighting or color balancing interference from the background.

When the images are brought into a program like Photoshop, even with careful setup, it is likely there will be some distortion of shape. In other words, the rectangle shape of the art will become somewhat of a trapezoid that will have to be straightened out. To do this in Photoshop, first select the image with the top left rectangular select tool, so the image is surrounded with "marching ants". Next, go under "edit" into "transform" and choose "skew". This will allow you to drag the lopsided corners up to a square position.