

Photoing your Artwork.

I started photoing my own work back in 1982 when the director of Mystic (then) told me how simple it was to do. It is pretty simple to take professional slides/photos etc with a few tips. The key is to match the temperature of your light with the temperature of your film. IF you do not you will get yellow or blue casts to your film.

I use 64T color transparency film. I use medium format now but have used slides for 20 years with pretty good results. This film comes in both 35mm format and 120mm. To make the light work I use 2 EBV blubs which comes in large light bulbs \$4.95 each and is a Tungsten bulb. The Tungsten blub/film combo is what the museums use to photo their work and I think the Grain of the slower speed films is the best for reproduction. This film has very fine grain and in the medium format cameraes has no visable grain at all. White photo reflection umbrellas will reflect the light indirectly onto your canvas or watercolor Mounted on on stands with the reflectors. Angle your light 45 degrees to the surface of the canvas. This allows you see the texture of your brushwork without glare. Make sure there is a large black or dark colored cloth (draped over cardboard) which will blockout backgrounds To take a meter reading go up to your canvas a take a meter reading directly off the canvas being sure not to block out any light with your body. Spend the time to frame your painting squarely in the middle of your viewer and make sure your canvas is straight up and down. Then shoot away.

To get prints I suggest going to a professional photographer with one of your slides and having them make print film off of that. I have taken print film but have never found it satisfactory. I invested in a transparency scanner to scan my work into digital form. I use an HP 4C and I fiddle with it a bit to get a good scanning. Some are more successful than others just technology still has its limits and the human eye/brain can dsee so much more. However, the professional photographers have yet to really make a film suitable for our purposes for indoor filming in the color print film. They are all outdoor film. In BW film use 32 speed film and photo about 10 am in the shade (no trees so it doesn't have dappling). I also found that I have tolerable results by taking a slide into like a Penn camerae and using one of those instant print center machines. It scans in the slide and then spits out a color print in a matter of minutes. Certainly worth a try. There is a good machine in the Penn camera on RT 1 up towards Laurel (in you live in the DC area) . I did this for the catalogue repro piece in the Louvre show and they did remarkably well with the print.

So far as software and the monitors and the digital format. I scan in at about 600 dpi. I save it into a bmp file or tif files then convert it into various sizes for various purposes into gif and jpg. The program I recommend for doing all this is Photo Impact. It has included in it the Smart Saver program which converts into both gif and jpg and is a remarkably versatile and bug free program I highly recommend it over Adobe Photo shop (which I also have) and Corel Paint (which I also have). I also recommend the Web Album Program for making digital portfolios. It takes a matter of 5-10 mins to do and it load up and entire portfolio lock stock and barrel. An example of this is on my site now which I have been using as a preview portfolio to save my transparencies for serious lookers.

TTYL
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