

How to take your own digital images.

As artists, we are often asked to provide digital images for promotional pieces the venue or sponsor may want to create. Also your photo image may be used to print your image for use on greeting cards or larger formats.

UNFRAMED Take photos of your work unframed, that is without the mat, glass and frame. This includes floating frames for aquaboard. Adding all of these finishing touches will end up reducing the size of your image that they can advertise.

FLAT SURFACE Clear a clean dry space on a table you can bend over.


EVEN LIGHT Try to get lighting even. Use two desk lamps or kitchen overhead ceiling lights. Sunnyside has a great room for photo taking in the Sunnyside room. The lighting is evenly lit with overhead fluorescent lights. I'm sure VMRC, and Bridgewater have a similar place where you can bring your work to photograph.

USE PHONE CAMERA Cell phone cameras these days are great! Hold your phone directly above your artwork so that you are about 18 inches or so from the art. Square up the image you see on your phone. Make sure you are not seeing any shadows on the image. Take a few photos and check to see what you got.

EDIT IMAGE Choose the best image and edit it.

Android phones: (My phone is a Samsung Galaxy. Yours will be similar.) Once the photo is chosen, it is time to edit.

CROP Go to the **Gallery** and choose your image. At the bottom of the screen, you will see the editing choices. Touch the **pencil icon**. That will bring up your image with a grid and corner croppers. Drag the corners to the area you want to save. If it is the whole image drag the corners to just inside the existing corners. You want to crop out any tape or unnecessary marks. Click **SAVE**. This will be the cropped image that your viewer will see.

Click on the **Pencil** icon again and the editing icons appear again. This time click on the sun  icon. This will take you to a new screen. The first highlighted icon is **Brightness**. Touch the white dot and slide it left and right to see how this affects your work. Try each of the icons and adjust as you see fit. Remember that you want your to be at its best. When you have made all of your adjustments, click **SAVE**. Your image will go back to your gallery for you to share.

SHARE as a JPEG. Your image needs to be shared as large as possible. The best form for most of our needs at SVWS and for any printer is the JPEG or .jpg for short and your phone is already made to do this!

Click on the **Gallery** and click on your newly edited image. Click on the share icon which looks like a "less than" sign. That will take you to a screen with choices of where you can share this image. Click the email icon to send the image directly through email to the intended address.