

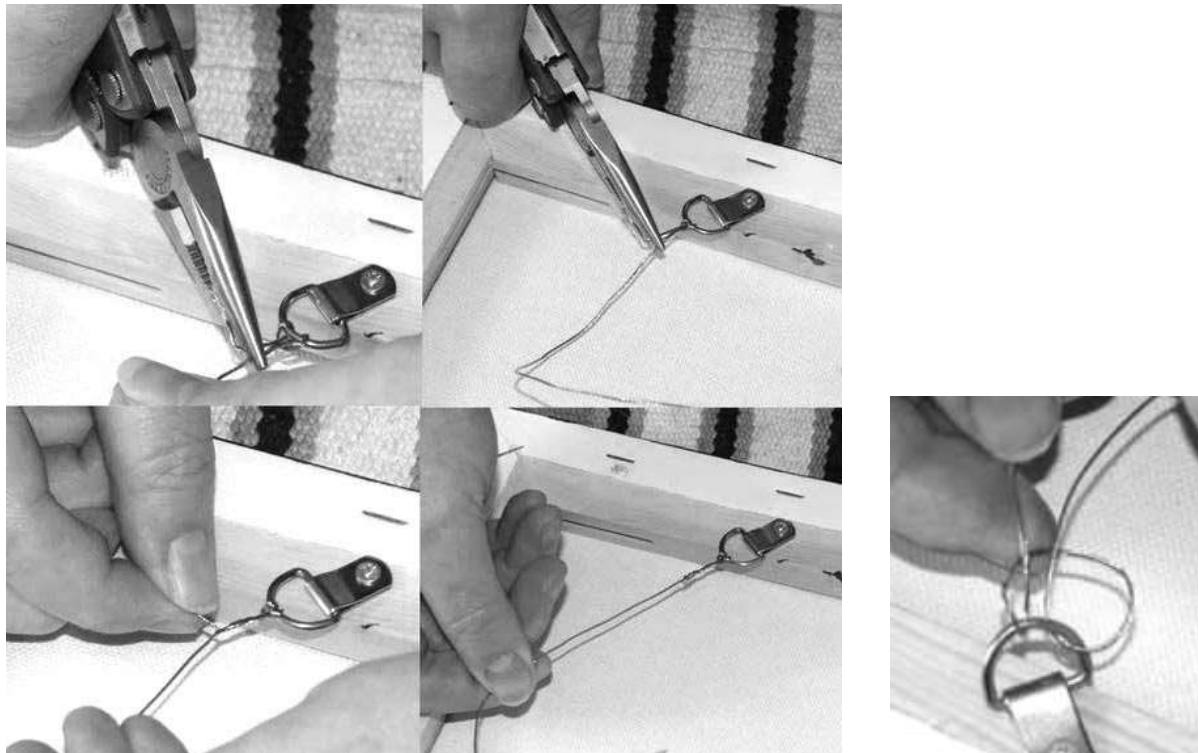
Preparing your artwork for exhibition:

For emerging artists, we recognize that preparing works for a show can be confusing and at times, threatening. For artists who are familiar with the exhibition process, we understand that different venues have different requirements, and so it is for this reason that we outline ours.

Primarily, your artwork should be presented in a “like-new” quality. For wall art framed and with glass, matting and frame should look new. The frame should be properly wired on the back with picture wire strong enough to ensure the safety of the work hanging, and to ensure that the work doesn’t come crashing down onto a possible purchaser. Keep in mind your own values when purchasing a new object. Would you pay a good price for something that appears shopworn, uncared for or abused?

If presenting for exhibition a painting on canvas that is not going to be framed, do make sure that staples or canvas nails are not showing on the sides. Keep in mind that the edges of the painting count in the purchaser’s eye and so should be considered when choosing how to ‘finish’ the work.

It is considered extremely bad form to hang a canvas on the wooden stretcher frame. Go to the hardware store or your art supply store and buy a package of D-rings and picture wire strong enough to support the weight of the painting. Screw the D-rings into the back of the stretcher frame one third of the way down from the top of the painting. String the wire fairly tightly across from D-ring to D-ring using a loop knot and leaving enough extra wire to coil at least 6 times back around itself to ensure the wire does not slide. Cut off the remainder.



Cover the coil end with a bit of tape so the people hanging your work don’t get holes in their fingers.

In presenting a framed piece, be aware of the added weight. The wiring should be tight and new, and strong enough to ensure safety. (Please do not use alligator hangers.)

Three dimensional works should be presented in such a way that the piece is completely secure in and of itself. (No heads falling off statues because of poor engineering.)

As much thought should be paid to the presentation of the work as is given to the initial conception. We are looking for a professional and polished look. This work, after all, is a reflection of the artist and the greatest care given to the presentation pays dividends in the long run in terms of respect and value.

Please also keep in mind that the volunteers who work as curators and hanging crew have many pieces to place in designing and hanging a new show. There is no time to deal with works that are not properly ready for hanging or presentation. It also becomes costly to constantly be finding screws and wires for works that have not been properly prepared. For these reasons, do please ensure that your work is **presentation-ready**.