

Getting Canvas and Framed Works Gallery Ready

We understand that for emerging artists, preparing artworks for an exhibition can be a daunting and confusing process. Even for seasoned artists, different exhibition venues may have varying requirements. As such, we would like to provide clear and concise guidelines outlining our specific exhibition requirements.

How to prepare a Canvas for hanging

When submitting your artwork for display, it is important to ensure that it is presented in excellent condition. If your work is wall art framed with glass, the matting and frame should be in pristine condition. The frame should be properly wired on the back using strong picture wire to ensure the safety of the artwork when hung. Imagine yourself as the purchaser - would you pay a fair price for something that appears worn, neglected or mistreated?

If you are submitting an unframed canvas painting for exhibition, make sure that the staples or canvas nails are not visible on the sides it should be a gallery wrapped canvas at least 1.5" deep. Keep in mind that the edges of the artwork are also significant to the purchaser's perception and should be considered when choosing the appropriate finishing technique, unframed canvas should be painted on the sides. A unframed canvas that is not gallery wrapped should be framed.

Hardware:

D-hooks (D-rings) are mandatory: They are safe and effective and can be purchased at Hardware stores, Art Supply stores, as well as Online. The larger the canvas, the larger your D-hooks need to be to support the weight on the gallery wall. Most d-hook packaging will display the weight they can hold, if unsure, ask an employee.

These D-hooks must be attached so that the D-ring part is facing the center of the canvas, and the fastener is facing outwards. **Caution Due to the instability, and the inability to hold weight, we will not accept canvases that have their D-hooks installed wrong as there is a high probability that the artwork or gallery being damaged.**

Picture Wire: Use plastic coated picture wire, injuries can result from handling non coated wire. Ends must be taped no matter what type of wire used to protect staff and volunteers handling the work. Not acceptable: String, Fishing line, jewelry wire. Measure your wire to be the width of the canvas plus 25cm to ensure you have enough wire to wrap and twist.

Bumpers or spacers: Painting should have bumpers or spacers (felt or foam) on the corners of the back of the work to allow the painting to breathe and to protect the walls from damage.

How to Attach D rings and Wire to painting

D hooks should be attached a third of the way down a painting with the d-hook facing the inside of the painting. To find the height of one third, measure the height of your painting and divide by 3. This will be one third.

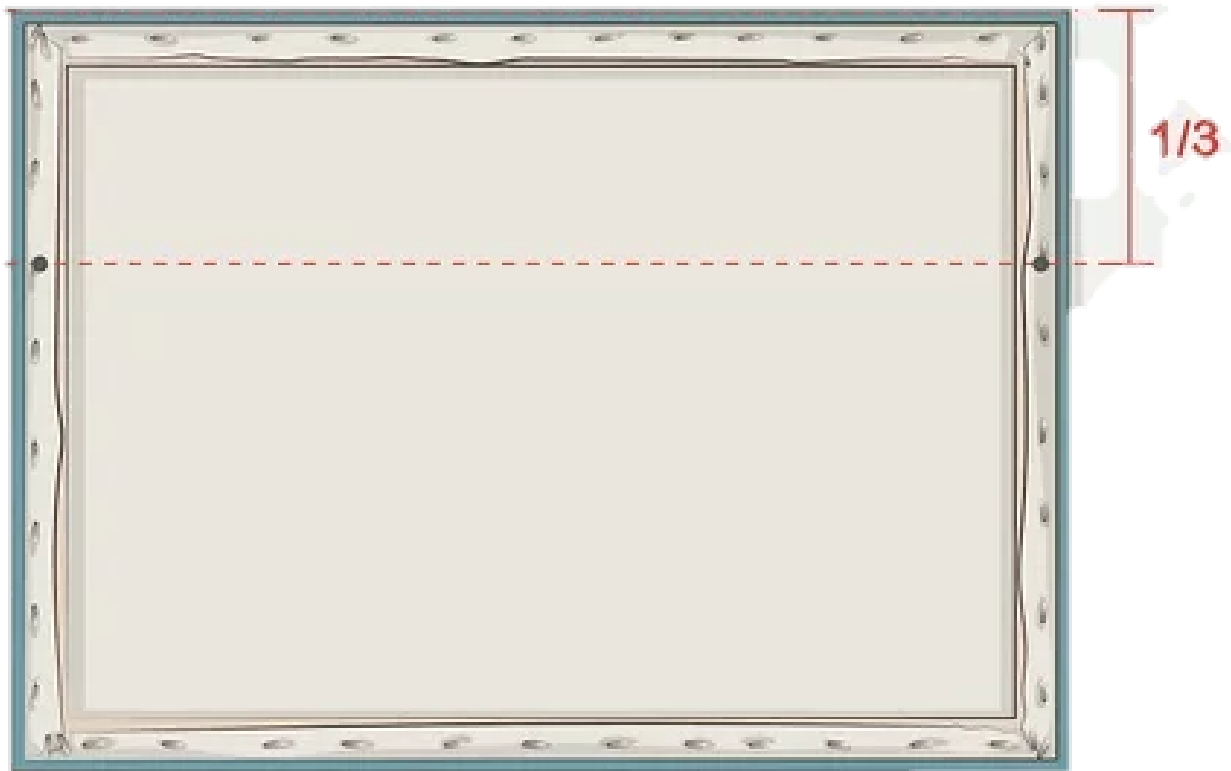


Fig 1. One third of the way down on your artwork

The wire should be attached to the D-hook so that it is secure and will not slip. Screw the D-hook into each side of the frame then, wrap the picture wire around the d-hook and tie a slip knot a cow hitch, or other flat locking knot, at each end before wrapping the wire around itself.

Here is a YouTube video that explains how to tie a cow's hitch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNRjMV8heDk>

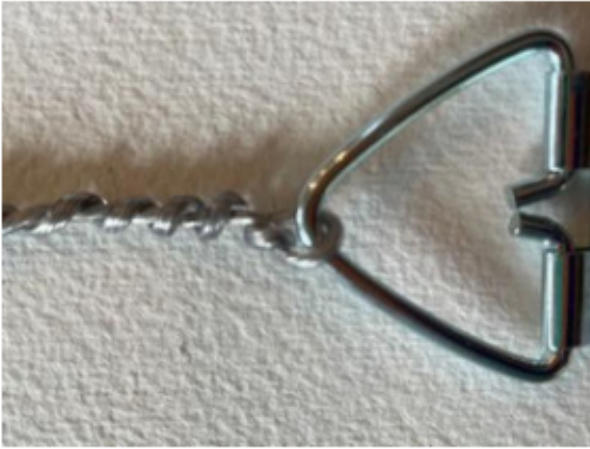


Fig. 2- Slip knot with ends wrapped.

Fig. 3- Cows hitch before wrapping end around.

Here is a picture below as an example of how the final hanging system should look.





Fig. 4 - D-hooks facing inward with plastic coated wire. Wire is fastened with a cow hitch and the ends are wrapped. Please remember to tape the wire ends.

Tension

It is essential to ensure that the wire used to hang your artwork has some flexibility, particularly for heavier or larger pieces. However, the wire should not be too loose to the extent that the gallery hook becomes visible when the picture is hung. The tighter the wire the closer to the wall the work will hang.

When attaching the wire to the painting, make sure that the center of the wire is positioned 8cm or more from the top of the artwork. Refer to the wiring illustrations below for a better understanding of this technique.

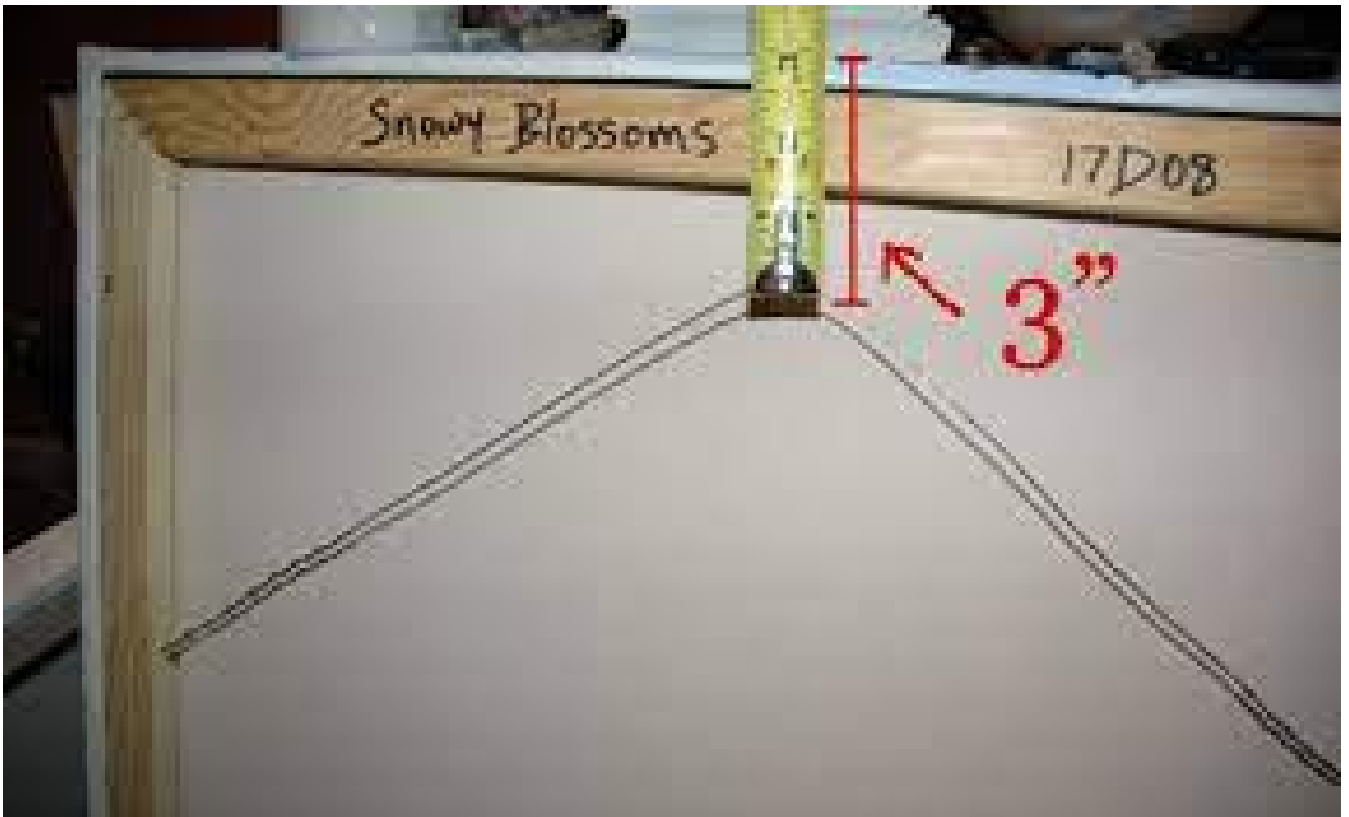


Fig. 5 How to measure where wire will sit. Make sure it is 8cm (3 in.) or more from the top of the canvas.

Wiring Illustrations

CANVAS

When it comes to hanging acrylic or oil paintings, it is important to allow for some slack in the wire. This will enable the person hanging the artwork to place their hand behind the painting with ease. It is crucial to ensure that the wire does not show above the top of the painting when it is hung on the gallery hanger.

If you are unsure whether the wire placement is correct, it is always best to test it out before the exhibition to avoid any mishaps.

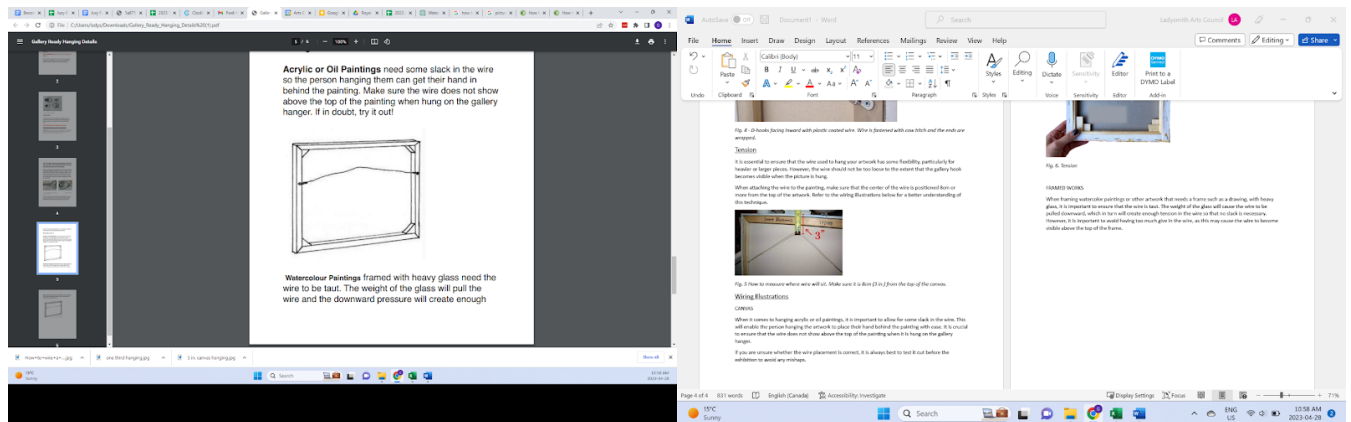


Fig. 6. Loose tension for canvas art

FRAMED WORKS

Any frames used should be strong enough to carry the weight of the painting. When framing watercolor paintings or other artwork that needs a frame such as a drawing, with heavy glass, it is important to ensure that the wire is taut. The weight of the glass will cause the wire to be pulled downward, which in turn will create enough tension in the wire so that no slack is necessary. However, it is important to avoid having too much give in the wire, as this may cause the wire to become visible above the top of the frame.



Fig 7. Tight tension for framed art.

It is important to dedicate as much attention to the presentation of your work as you did to its initial conception. We aim to achieve a professional and polished look for all displayed works, as they reflect both the artist and the gallery. By putting great care into the presentation of your work, you not only gain respect, but also add value to your work in the long run.

It is important to keep in mind that our volunteers, who serve as curators and the hanging crew, have many pieces to place and arrange when designing and hanging a new show. We cannot afford to spend time dealing with works that are not properly prepared for hanging or presentation. Constantly finding screws and wires for unprepared works can become expensive. For these reasons, we kindly ask that you ensure your work is presentation-ready before submitting it for display.