Western Art Gallery

Helpful Hints for Taking Quality Digital Images

The committee strongly encourages that submitted images be done professionally. If you choose not to use a professional, below are a few tips to ensure the quality of your digital images representing your work:

- Take your photos in natural light but not direct sunlight.
- For flat work, photograph without glass to avoid reflections. Do not use a flash.
- All art should be photographed prior to framing.
- Place your work as vertical as possible - an easel will help.
- The background should not be "busy" or distracting – use plain sheets or fabric to drape and hide the background or easel. Darker colors for the background work very well.
- Make sure you fill up the camera view-finder as much as possible with your work, without cropping the ends off. It is important to hold your camera so the lens is "parallel" to the work. This prevents perspective distortion.
- Make sure to take more than one photo, perhaps three or four, so you may choose the best one, and have extras as well.
- All images must be clearly labeled (see below).
- A digital SLR camera produces optimal results. However, if you choose to use a point-and-click digital camera it must be capable of taking images at 7 megapixels or higher. As a general guideline, set the image quality to the highest quality setting possible for your camera (i.e. the setting that will fill your memory card with the fewest images). Also as a general guideline, images should be at least 2 MB (2,000 kb) in size for adequate image quality. The maximum size that can be uploaded to the application is 5 MB so check your file size before uploading.

Helpful hints for labeling files

To ensure that there is minimal confusion during the jury process, it is helpful to label your .jpg or .tif files in a clear concise manner. It is recommended that your file name include your name and the title of the piece of art corresponding to your application.

For example <<ArtistName_TangledTrees.jpg>>
This identifies the artist's name and the title of the piece of art as being "Tangled Trees" on the Application.