

MNWCA Monthly Program
Photographing Your Work
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Equipment

- 🍏 Digital Camera: SLR at least 3 megapixels, higher than 7 would be better
- 🍏 Tripod
- 🍏 Backdrop paper: neutral gray is best
- 🍏 Lights:
 - for smaller 3-D work an overhead soft-box is best, one that can be angled on one axis.
 - Small reflectors for the sides, white boards, or foil covered boards (8 x10" is enough)
 - tungsten lighting is best, be sure to set your camera for the type of light you are using
 - for larger work side lighting is necessary either in addition to, or instead of the overhead. These should also have soft boxes or be reflected using umbrellas.

Considerations

- 🍏 Camera Settings
 - Use a longer exposure and smaller aperture to create greater depth of field, more of the piece will be in focus
 - Be sure to set the camera for the type of lighting you are using (tungsten, daylight, fluorescent)
 - Shoot RAW images or use the highest resolution available from your camera
 - Bracket; shoot each piece at three slightly different exposures (some cameras can be set to bracket automatically)
 - Don't use a flash
 - When setting the exposure use a grey card
- 🍏 Background and Lighting
 - Background should be smooth and neutral, don't distract from the piece
 - Backdrop should be large enough and "drape" needs to be long enough, don't crowd the piece
 - Control your lighting by working in a room that can be completely dark, no windows, or work at night, only one light source
 - Light the piece, not the background
 - Gradate the background, lighter at the bottom, darker at the top
 - Avoid having a hard horizon line, white to black
 - Avoid creating a dark "cloud" that hangs over the piece
 - Avoid hard shadows
 - Some shadows are necessary to "ground" the object however
 - You don't want your piece to look as if it is floating in space
- 🍏 Shiny pieces, black pieces and white pieces need special consideration
- 🍏 Piece should be nicely framed
 - A little more space at the top than the bottom and centered left to right
 - Not too much space around the object, (but not too little either)
 - Consider the actual size of the object; avoid making small objects look monumental. Do this by allowing more space around them and shooting them from slightly above.
 - Show depth and dimension; avoid shooting exactly straight-on
 - Don't shoot from too close, creating fish-eye effect, better to crop the image digitally