

DIXIE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY FRAMING REQUIREMENTS

Paintings and other similar two-dimensional pieces

- All artwork should be presented in a simple, professional manner. Consider yourself a professional and treat your artwork with respect. Always use the best materials.
- Whenever possible use archival materials in making and presenting your artwork. Common materials such as paper, cardboard, and tape contain acid that will cause gradual yellowing, fading, and deterioration. By using neutral-PH materials, you can help preserve your art for future generations of art lovers to collect and enjoy.
- The finished presentation – front, back, top, and bottom - is part of the whole work. It should appear to be new and well crafted, not battered and shopworn or flimsy or fragile.
- Do not use "snap-on" frames, corner clips with glass, or "easel" or "kickstand" frames designed for tabletop use. No poster frames or thin metal frames, these frames include Poster Frames with Snap-Open, Slide-in, Swing-Open, and Rear-Loading Styles — Lightweight Aluminum Construction. Be sure the frame is not marred, scuffed, or shows long-time use for another painting.
- Paintings on paper should be matted and it is advisable to use neutral tones (white, gray, or beige) and covered with clean, scratch-free glass or Plexiglas. If you have stored your paintings, please be sure that no spiders or bugs have made their way into your framed paintings. Check to see if the glass/Plexiglas is clean with no lingering fingerprints. The mat size should be appropriate to the piece and the frame. A wide mat is better; it expands the work and makes it appear larger. Narrow borders visually reduce the artwork. Do not use extra-wide mats just to make a piece fit in a standard-size frame.
- Float-mounting the artwork over the mat, so that the edges are seen, is an option when an artwork has a deckle edge.
- Varnished paintings should have a 2-inch frame for paintings size 11 x 14 inches or lower; paintings 16 x 20 and higher should have a 2 7/8 or larger. Painting esthetically should not appear to be framed in a poster frame as the frame needs to be large enough to enhance the painting. **Varnished/waxed paintings do not have outside matting. Be sure to size the paper to fit the frame prior to painting. Varnished/waxed paintings may be matted and framed under glass.**
- All work must be presented ready-to-hang with good wire that will hold the painting and it should be attached to the frame about one-quarter of the way down the sides of the piece. Stainless steel braided picture wire works best for smooth hanging and deters rusting. Make sure the wire is taut so that it doesn't hang loosely. All wire hardware must be attached to the frame and not on the back of the painting cover. Do not use saw-tooth hangers. They are not strong enough to support the weight of a frame safely and it makes it difficult for those who are hanging the artwork.
- A dust cover is required on all paintings to protect the watercolor paper for matted and framed paintings; dust cover not required for varnished/waxed paintings.
- **Label the back of the painting** with your name, title of painting; and if you want, contact information like your email address.