

Guidelines for framed work

Framed work for exhibition at the Devon Guild of Craftsmen should be framed to a high standard

- There are many different forms of mounting and framing artwork. Whether traditional framing or a contemporary style is chosen it is important that all materials used in contact with the art or craft work must be acid free
- Frames should be made especially for the intended work, ready for hanging (i.e. fixings on sides or back and ready strung if appropriate)
- Mouldings should be of high quality and have no marks or blemishes
- Frames must not be warped
- D-rings should be used (double screws for heavy framed pieces)
- Use professional picture hanging cord/wire suitable for the weight of the frame
- For glazed work: Picture framing glass should be used and glass with UV protection should be considered. Anti-reflective art glass is the best option for reflective free viewing and incorporates a 70% UV filter to protect the artwork from fading
- Dust and dirt should be removed, and the glass should be cleaned and polished
- Artwork should not touch the glass
- The back of the work should be sealed, with gummed brown acid free tape or picture framers' self-adhesive tape (not masking tape)
- It is advisable to attach bumper pads to the two lower corners of the back of the frame for protection
- For unglazed photographic work: It is essential to ensure that the surface of the image is sealed to ensure it is protected and guaranteed scratch resistant e.g. Tray framing and Keyline framing

Guidelines for the conservation framing of works on paper

- **Mount board:** It is important to use a conservation quality mount board that is acid free:
"Conservation" board is made from chemically purified wood pulp and has an alkaline buffer against acid attack.
"Museum" board is an all-cotton fibre mount board. It is very stable and has excellent aging properties.
Standard mount board should **not** be used. It is made from wood fibre, which discolours and becomes acidic and brittle.
- **Hinging tapes:** Use acid free gummed paper tape. Pressure sensitive tape (e.g. masking tape) should not be used.
Acid free gummed linen tape is recommended for hinging mounts.

- **Protection barrier:** To prevent contamination of the mount and the artwork a barrier sheet should be inserted between the hardboard backboard and the mount.

Unframed work for the browser should be backed with acid free card and covered with cellophane.

Conservation papers, boards and support boards are available from:
Conservation by Design Ltd. Web: www.cxdltd.com/ tel: 01234 846300

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