PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ARTWORK

Cameras: There are two types of common digital cameras. The first is a "point and shoot" camera. These cameras are small, rectangular, and fit in your pocket and have a zoom lens. The second type of camera is Digital SLR that has interchangeable lenses. Both of these types of cameras will work for shooting artwork.

Settings: "P" is the best setting for those of you who do not know how to manually set aperture and shutter speed. Set your ISO low (around 100) for good detail. A high ISO will create a grainy photo. A low ISO means that the shutter will open longer so a tripod is necessary. Set your "white balance" appropriately. For example, fluorescent is correct in most classrooms or offices, and a light bulb if you are using incandescent light at home. Some cameras have custom white balances and this feature is ideal for mixed lighting situations.*If your boards or drawings are primarily white use exposure compensation (+/-) to adjust the exposure +1 to the meter indicated exposure in Program.

Tripods: It is IMPOSSIBLE to hold the camera steady enough to take a photo with a low ISO. Tripods are universal (they fit any camera). Additionally, use a remote control that attaches to the camera if available. This allows you to take photos without touching or shaking the camera. If a remote is not available a self-timer should also be used for taking these shots.

Set up: It is crucial that your artwork is parallel to the lens of the camera. This means that it must be perfectly flat. When at school, pin the work to the corkboards that are found in every classroom. Place the bottom edge of your piece against use the bottom edge of the corkboard to ensure that it is perfectly straight. At home you will have to find a place to attaché your work to a straight wall and have room to set up the tripod. This can be challenging with heavier boards so a ledge may be necessary. Have an assistant help you by hold the outer edges. Once again sure the art work if flat and parallel to the wall.

Lighting: Most of all, lighting needs to be consistent – either from a natural source. Look for an area that has even light. If you are using artificial lights be sure to have two lights of the same strength placed symmetrically to the side of the boards. The campus classrooms are ideal since florescent light is even. Do not use flash as this can leave hot spots on your boards.

DIGITAL DARKROOM:

Automatic Method: Open up your images in Photoshop as a .JPEG Crop your photo. Use the crop tool you can use image menu> image size to set dimensions and set to (minimum) 300dpi. To adjust the color choose Image> Adjustments >Auto color. Photoshop will correct your colors. Next go to Image >Adjustments >Auto contrast. Photoshop will correct your contrast.

Custom Method: Open up your photos in Bridge (this is a new feature of CS3). Right click and choose "Edit in Camera Raw." Now when you open up your JPEG files you can use the controls for editing photos shot in Raw format. This allows you to control many details. If you are already shooting in Raw, then your photos will open automatically in this format. If you are using .JPEG files you must check that box in Bridge. Raw format is used by professional photographers to control many elements of the photo. If you do not know anything about Raw format, or how it works, do not shoot in Raw format. Raw files are large - 6-9 MBs each. If you choose to use Raw be sure you have plenty of storage.

* If your perspective is slightly off after you select the area you wish to crop there will be a perspective box to check in the top status bar. Select it and you can then make some perspective adjustments.