

SEATTLE EROTIC FESTIVAL

Art Framing Guide

The majority of art chosen for inclusion in Seattle Erotic Art Festival is 2D visual art - photographs, paintings, drawings, and prints. The information below will help you prepare your art for safe and elegant installation on SEAF's walls. The guidelines are good for framed art, stretched canvases, hanging sculptures and mixed-media pieces, and anything else that is meant to hang from picture hooks.

Although loose pages, pieces of fabric, images mounted to foam core, and other non-framed pieces are not excluded from the exhibition, artists are strongly encouraged to enclose their art in frames to protect it from damage and aid in its installation.

All work must arrive ready to hang, regardless of frame/display type.

Picture frames, both wood and metal, are excellent choices for protecting and showcasing flat, 2D art. Frames should be well-built (no broken corners) and have screw eyes or D-ring hangers on either side, connected with the appropriate strength of picture wire. Screw eyes or D-rings should be placed one-third of the way down from the top edge of the frame. Wire should be secured snugly across the back; loose wires allow the frame to hang away from the wall making it more difficult to properly light and secure the art. We use two picture hanging hooks per piece (except for very small pieces) so wire across the width of the frame is necessary. Sawtooth hangers are not secure, rarely centered, and cannot be used with our hanging hardware; **sawtooth hangers are not appropriate hardware for this festival**. We also discourage the use of easel-frames. They are better suited for table-top display, not for hanging on a wall.

When choosing other materials to complete a framed piece (matte board, glass, and backing) we recommend using archival materials. **Acid-free** matte board is widely available, as is acid-free foam core (to be used as backing). Anything touching your art should be acid-free to prevent discoloration over time. Using these materials adds value to your work, and allows us to provide superior products to our patrons.

Glass and plexiglass (picture-quality plastic) are both excellent choices for protecting and showcasing your art. Both are clear, come in regular and UV-protective options, and are readily available online and at local frame shops. If using plexiglass be sure to take extra care when cleaning, handling, and packing - it can scratch easily and should only be cleaned with ammonia-free solutions. SEAF uses ammonia-free glass cleaner exclusively.

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Unframed **stretched canvases** should also have screw eyes or D-rings on each side, with picture wire across the back. If you are submitting an unframed stretched canvas, please paint the sides. Any piece of art that does not have glass (or equivalent) across the front should be completely dry before delivery to the festival. **Wet paint is unacceptable**, and SEAF is not responsible for damage to any piece that is not dry, cured, or otherwise protected.

Sculpture and other 3D can be a bit trickier to prepare for hanging. If you plan to have your 3D art hang from the gallery walls, please make sure the hanging hardware is attached securely and the weight appropriately balanced. Although we use museum wax to hold pieces in place on the walls, noise vibration can cause pieces to hang askew and/or come loose from the wax. Please make sure that your hardware is attached in such a way that your art will hang for up to four full days and not come loose due to vibration. Please also make sure that your piece will hang level from your hardware.

If you have any questions about frames, hanging wire, hanging hardware, installation, or other concerns about how your art will be displayed on the wall, please contact:

artmanager@seattleerotic.org