

Iowa City Public Library Art Purchase Prize: Guidelines for Framing

Finalists selected after the committee views the slides will be asked to bring their work, framed, to the Library for judging. Frames must be sturdy and **Plexiglas** must be used instead of glass, since works in the ART-TO-GO collection will frequently be in transit as borrowers take them home and return them. Artwork delivered with chipped, cracked, damaged, dirty or unprofessional presentation will not be considered.

Matting:

An artwork is usually shown to its best advantage with a white or off-white mat, neither too narrow nor too wide. 100% cotton rag mat board is recommended. Do not use a ball point pen to mark mats, as the ink may bleed into the art and cause permanent damage. If there is no mat between the Plexiglas and the art work, spacers should be used. Spacers keep the paper surface away from the glazing and help to prevent condensation.

Backing:

The backing of the framed artwork should be archival, acid free foam board. Brown corrugated cardboard should never be used. (Acid bleed through from cardboard or other acid containing materials will yellow or fade the artwork.)

Mounting/Hinging:

Follow museum mounting techniques, using Japanese hinges (rice paper and wheat paste) or archival Mylar corner pockets. Never use masking tape (which contains damaging chemicals) to hinge the artwork to the backing or the mat.

Dust Covers:

Attach a brown-paper dust cover to the back of the frame. The dust cover is both functional and cosmetic. It keeps out dust, moisture, and insects and provides a clean, professional look for the back of the frame. Dust covers are usually made from inexpensive Kraft paper.

Frames:

Simple metal or wood frames are recommended and should be suitable to the work. Plexiglas boxes may be used for deeper textile or mixed media works. Artists should keep in mind that if their work is purchased, it will hang in many different settings; thus simple unobtrusive framing will be most adaptable. All art must be wired and ready to hang (no sawtooth hangers).

Many businesses in this area can provide help with framing.