



# Caring for your Art

Thank you for purchasing art and supporting the Salmon River Fine Arts Center. We believe art should be enjoyed and put in a place that makes you happy, but there are certain considerations that you should know that will help protect your purchase and ensure you can enjoy your art for as long as possible. Below are suggestions to properly handle, display or store your art as well as some tips to mat or frame your art. *Please note, artist techniques, materials and finishes vary greatly, if you have questions about specific techniques, materials, or archival standards followed we suggest you contact the artist directly.*

## **Handling your Art**

- Always avoid touching the surface of the art. Natural skin oils or other contaminants can easily damage your art or print. Always use both hands and support the sides or back of the print or wear white cotton gloves that are lint free and designed for handling art.

## **Light Sensitivity**

- Some art is more sensitive to light than others, but without protection, all art if left in the sun for prolonged periods may fade or crack.
- Photos, Alcohol Inks, and Watercolors are extremely light sensitive.
- Many artists protect their art or canvases with a UV protected varnish or spray, but it is still best to keep fine art out of direct sunlight. Incandescent or LED indoor lighting is not a problem, but avoid fluorescent lights as they could emit harmful ultraviolet rays.

## **Environment**

- Hang your print away from areas where grime, dust, and other pollutants such as cigarette smoke, may leave a residue on the art.
- Avoid extreme fluctuations in moisture and temperature and avoid areas with high humidity that may cause mold. (Museums keep the temperature generally around 65 F and a relative humidity of 40%.)

## **Framing**

- Framing is highly recommended to protect your art and there are many options, including standard store bought frames, as well as custom and archival framing.
- Framing is not necessary for certain pieces such as ceramic, leather and wood as well as some gallery wrapped stretched canvases.

## **Glass and Matting**

- For light sensitive art, a special UV glass is recommended. This will block most all of the harmful UV rays and often help reduce glare.
- Mats are important to use with glass to prevent the print and glass from touching.
- For proper art preservation and longevity, we recommend using an acid-free archival mat and archival artist tape.

## **Storage**

- If you are storing your art, avoid anything that might press against or damage the surface of your art. Do not stack prints on top of each other. Separate them with pieces of acid-free paper to avoid damage.
- Although some artist display and protect their art in plastic sleeves, those are meant to be temporary for easy viewing and handling. Do not keep your print under plastic for long periods of time, especially if there is humidity in the air to avoid mold.

## **Cleaning**

- Dust prints, photos and fine art with a clean, soft rag, never use cleaning products or water directly on the surface.
- Do not blow on your print as you may inadvertently deposit water droplets that can damage or mark your print.
- If using compressed air, apply short bursts and keep the nozzle at least 12" away from the surface of the print.

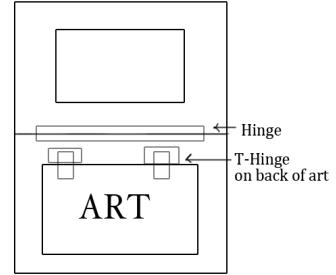
## **DIY Tips for Framing, matting and mounting your art**

1. Some artists work may already be mounted but framing may necessitate the need to remove and remount on a different size backer board that matches your mat or perhaps you may want to redo to ensure it meets archival standards.
2. If you plan on cutting your own mat, you will need a pull style mat cutter with an angled blade, a sharp x-acto knife or box cutter and a straight edge. There are many videos and websites that have tutorials for this. (We may be offering a class for this in the future.)
3. Use a T-Hinge to attach your artwork (see below) with artist archival tape for preservation and best results.
4. There are two types of artist hinge tape, one has a self-adhesive surface, typically with a peel off backing and the other is water-activated.
5. When using tape that needs dampening always use a clean sponge, never use saliva!
6. Never tape on the front of the artwork.
7. Never use household tape contains acids and impurities that can leech onto your art work and discolor and damage the art over time
8. Only adhere the top of the art to your mat to allow the artwork to float and flex with changing seasons and temperatures.
9. Use screw eyes or flat hanging hardware with a wire attached. Avoid using saw tooth hangers as they are difficult to hang adjust.
10. Hanging hardware should be attached approximately one quarter distance from the top.

### **Matting your art**

#### **Materials:**

Mat board cut to size (acid free or archival recommended)  
Backing board (archival) cut the same size as the outside of the mat  
Artist Linen hanging tape, either gummed or peel back  
Scissors  
Your artwork



#### **Instructions: (steps 1-3 are optional but makes matting your work much easier)**

1. Flip your mat board so that the front faces down and the top edge of the mat touches the top edge of your backing board.
2. Cut a piece of linen hanging tape slightly shorter than your mat board.
3. Run tape along the mat board and backing board together to create a hinged frame. It should fold easily like a book.
4. Center your art by laying it right in the middle of your backing board.
5. Carefully fold your mat over the art on top and adjust the art to fit perfectly in the window of the mat. Once the desired position is found, place a weight on the artwork to ensure it will not move and flip the mat open carefully so as not to move your art.
6. Cut hinging tape into four strips, approximately 2 inches (size may vary based on your size art and mat) Take a strip, peel off the back or wet with a sponge and carefully slide the tape sticky-side-up under your art to attach to the back of the artwork, leaving an inch or more exposed above the artwork. Take remaining two strips and cross the exposed tape creating your T-hinge. Covering just the exposed tape is sufficient – no need to overlap onto the face of the artwork.
7. Once taped, close the mat and backing to ensure the position is correct and it is secure
8. Your matted artwork is ready to frame!