

CONSIDER THESE THINGS WHEN FRAMING YOUR PRINTS AND WATERCOLOURS FOR MACANDMOR

Use a good quality frame. We have found wooden frames the best. We have had D ring screws pull out of frames that were from a discount store. The frames were made of compressed recycled paper. That may sound great but they have no “guts”. Some cheap frames have plastic glazing instead of glass. It is nowhere near as clear as glass, your artwork will look duller, and it won't clean well or last well. Always clean the glass – nearly all frames will have some sort of foggy residue on the glass.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL LOOK FOR BEFORE WE ACCEPT THE WORK FOR SALE.

We check to see if the frame:

- is unmarked and clean
- has good closed mitres at each corner
- is glazed with glass
- has cord and is ready to hang (no alternative will be accepted*)
- has no contaminants behind the glass (common is dust, marks on the mat, marks on the back of the glass, and hair)
- has frame tape sealing the back
- is labelled with the artist's name and the work title

*this is about speed to hang and about not dealing with a lot of different systems. The saw tooth fixings on the back of some frames are difficult to align in most cases. Keyhole type hanging is hard to line up too.

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE SEEN THAT DOESN'T WORK

- frame styles that don't fit with the work style
- thrift store frames that have not been cleaned up and repaired where needed
- art framed with no mat (this is hugely dependant on the work and the style of frame but, in general, art with no breathing space between it and the frame doesn't look as good on the wall.)

PUTTING THE HANGING CORD ON YOUR WORK

Where you anchor your cord to the frame is important. The position is always a compromise between getting the work to NOT lean out excessively at the top and not seeing the wall hook and cord above the work.

Don't use screw eyes that stick out the back toward the wall – these mark walls and cause the work to hang outwards at the top. You *can* use screw eyes that point in towards the centre of the frame if your frame allows that. A lot of box frames will have room to do this It gives a result that hangs very flat against the wall if you put the cord anchors at the right position. D rings or Triangle rings work well on most frames.

The best position for the cord anchors is commonly 2/3 of the way up from the bottom of the frame. We have found that 5/6 of the way up is better. Anywhere between these points works. Your cord needs to be slack enough to allow movement so that the person hanging it can get their fingers in to get it over the hook. It needs to be tight enough so the cord and hook are not visible above the frame when it is on the wall. Test your final efforts by letting the work hang on your finger – if your finger is against the back about 20 to 25mm down from the top of the frame then it is perfect. Lower down means the cord may be too tight, higher means the cord is too loose (the hook will show).

Never use anything called “Twine”. Often something labelled “string” will not even be robust enough. You are looking for cord of at least 2mm wide. Bigger works will need bigger cord. Double cord it if you can (i.e. the cord goes across the back twice). This makes hanging easier and more secure.