



Mattawoman Creek Art Center

Framing Standards



This document establishes and communicates requirements for the presentation of two-dimensional artwork to be hung on a wall for display in exhibitions at MCAC.

Artwork, including its frame if applicable, must be no larger than 6 feet in any dimension or weigh more than 40 pounds.

The frame is as much a part of the presentation as the piece of artwork.

All pieces, regardless of framing type, must include a securely attached hanging wire strong enough to support the artwork. Fasteners holding the hanging wire must be securely embedded in the frame and static (do not move). It is best to have the wire fairly taut with a little play and attached no more than one-quarter of the height of the frame from the top edge. When taut, the middle of the hanging wire must be at least one inch below the top edge of the artwork so that when the piece is hung, the hanger does not show. To protect the fingers of the volunteers who hang the artwork, the ends of the hanging wire must be wrapped in tape. Alternatively, a sawtooth frame hanger may be used if properly centered on the top frame board.

A standard type of frame is the most common way to surround a piece of 2-dimensional artwork, but a suitable alternative may be used such as the following:

- a. A mounted canvas that wraps around all sides and is fastened in the back with all four of the sides painted or otherwise used as part of the art.
- b. Wood lath (thin wood strips) may be securely fastened (nailed or screwed) to the canvas frame to hide the stapled canvas. The lath must be finished (painted, stained, varnished, etc.).
- c. A panel (hardboard, canvas board, wood, Masonite, plywood, etc.), if not placed in a standard frame, must be attached to a support cradle on the back, edging the piece. The edging must be finished (painted, stained, varnished, etc.).

Fragile pieces such as soft pastels, watercolor, graphite, charcoal, and photographs on paper, must be placed in a frame with glass or acrylic glazing for protection of the artwork.

Frames must be in serviceable condition:

- no loose corners, no split wood sides
- strong enough to hold the artwork when hung and glazing, if applicable.

Framing, matting, and glass or glazing must be clean and not scratched or marred.

Variation from the above standards may be allowed on a case-by-case basis but **must be approved by the Artists Advisors in advance** of the exhibition. Otherwise, artwork not meeting the above standards will be disqualified from exhibition.

These standards are set by the Mattawoman Creek Art Center Artist Advisory Council. Questions may be directed to the Artist Advisory Council chair by contacting the Art Center:

MattawomanArt@aol.com or 301-743-5159.



Mattawoman Creek Art Center

Display Standards for 3-Dimensional Artwork



This document establishes and communicates requirements for the presentation of three-dimensional artwork for display in exhibitions at MCAC.

Artwork must be no larger than 6 feet in any dimension or weigh more than 40 pounds.

Three-dimensional artwork which is to be hung on the wall must comply with the Framing Standards.

Three-dimensional artwork that is to be displayed on a pedestal or floor must be stable and pose no risk of falling over.

Artwork must pose no risk to visitors. Hazardous materials or objects are prohibited.

Artwork, including any base or support structure, must be clean and not scratched or marred.

Variation from the above standards may be allowed on a case-by-case basis but **must be approved by the Artists Advisors in advance** of the exhibition. Otherwise, artwork not meeting the above standards will be disqualified from exhibition.

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