

Guidance Notes for Exhibitors

The purpose of these brief notes is to help new exhibitors prepare their paintings for the Summer Exhibition and, dare I say it, to remind those of us who have shown with the Art Circle before but have got into some bad habits what we should all be doing.

It is worth remembering that presentation is all. And, frankly, if it doesn't look as if you value your work then it is unlikely anyone else will. If you are fortunate enough to sell your work then you are unlikely to know where it will end up or who will see it. All paintings are mini adverts for the artist, and poor framing is not a good way to promote your work.

First of all, it is important to read the instructions on the Entry Form. In particular, note the Hanging-in times and the details that must be written on the labels.

It is essential that the label attached to string hangs below the painting. This is so the judges can identify the medium and award prizes to paintings in the correct category – for example, it can be difficult to distinguish between oils and acrylics. This label is also useful to locate work when the final exhibition labels are placed by the paintings. The stringed labels are always removed once everything is in place.

The back of the frame:

Remember to tape the back of glazed paintings. It is surprising how quickly small insects find their way to the back of pictures and squeeze themselves between the glass and mount in full view of everyone.

The picture cord or wire can be secured to the frame by either a D-ring or eye screw. D-rings are considered slightly more secure and have the advantage that the painting doesn't hang leaning forward. Please be careful if your frame is not wood but a modern composite; it is difficult to secure screws to hard plastic material.

The cord/wire should be drawn tight between the two D-rings/eye screws which should be positioned about one third of the height of the picture from the top of the painting.

