



*Cary Photographic Artists*

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**Preparing Photographs**  
**for**  
**Exhibition**

*March 2018*

**This document is intended to provide information on preparing your photographs for exhibition including:**

- **General Considerations**
- **Getting Started**
- **Presentation**
- **Printing**
- **Mounting, Matting, Framing**
- **Sources for Materials**

# General

- **Cary Photographic Artists takes all reasonable care to safeguard photographs entrusted for display in exhibits. However, Cary Photographic Artists is not responsible for loss or damage to photographs.**
- **You must be a current paid member of Cary Photographic Artists to participate in all exhibits sponsored by CPA Exhibits Committee.**
- **CPA does not exhibit nudes, political or religious images. Photographs with offensive content are not exhibited**
- **Some exhibitions may have a theme regarding subject, or be juried. In some cases, a specific presentation may be required. For example, black frames and white mats might be specified.**
- **If a photograph is sold from an exhibition, it must remain hanging until the end of the exhibition.**
- **It is the responsibility of the photographer to pay any taxes due on sales.**

➤ **All artwork submitted must be “ready to hang”:**

- **rigid and secure assembly**
- **picture hanging wire attached to the frame**
- **wire ends taped for safety**
- **clean, lint free & undamaged**
- **labeled on back with name, art title, email, phone #, price or NFS**

**You should consider your exhibited photography as art, and as such, photography presented for exhibition and sale should reflect the level of quality expected by persons viewing and buying works of art.**

# GETTING STARTED

Following a few easy steps, you can decide how simple or involved you would like to be in preparing your photographs for exhibit and sale.

## Some Important Choices:

- **Print at home or use a commercial printer.**
- **Use a professional framing company or do-it-yourself.**
- **For DIY framing, there are several options:**
  - **Cut your own mat board & backing; buy frame and glass and assemble at home.**
  - **Purchase precut mat, glass, frame, backing as a kit and assemble at home.**
  - **Purchase all materials (pre-cut) separately and assemble at home.**

# Presentation

There are many ways to present your image. Some of them are:

- Framed under glass with single, double, or even no mat (although prolonged contact between a print and glass may damage the print).
- Floater frame under glass.
- Wood block (print mounted on wood, usually hung without glass).
- Canvas wrap (printed on canvas and wrapped around a canvas frame).
- Image Block (multiple images mounted on a single block).
- Metal Print (printed on aluminum).

One way to decide which method works best for your particular image is to visit other photography exhibits and observe what other people are doing, what appeals to you, and what method suits your particular photograph.

# Printing

## ➤ Print at home

- Allows quick, easy viewing and editing of your work-in-process. Photos in minutes.

## ➤ Local print lab

Some CPA members have recommended the following printers. There are many more options available depending on your preferences.

- The Fotoshoppe [www.thefotoshoppenc.com](http://www.thefotoshoppenc.com)  
2072 Kildaire Farm Rd Cary, NC (919)233-2940
- Costco [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com)  
2838 Wake Forest Road Raleigh, NC (919)755-2801
- NC Tricolor [www.nctricolor.com](http://www.nctricolor.com)  
5265 Raynor Rd Garner, NC (919)833-9331

➤ **Online print company**

Some members have recommended the following online printers. There are many more options available. Your preference and experience will help you find what works best for you.

- White House Custom Color [www.whcc.com](http://www.whcc.com)

Wide variety of products: print papers, canvas, wood, metal, proof prints, matted/framed service, order fulfillment. Free shipping on orders over \$12.

- Bay Photo [www.bayphoto.com](http://www.bayphoto.com)

Wide variety of products: similar to White House. They have a better way to hang metal prints.



# Mounting, Matting, Framing

- **Photographs should be mounted on a solid support. Frame or other rigid support is required.**
- **Whenever possible, archival, acid free products should be used.**
- **Simple black framing is recommended such as Nielsen Profile 15 (a metal section frame) in black.**
- **White matboard is recommended, such as Crescent 9500 White Glove.**
- **Mats should be cut with smooth clean edges and be dust-free.**
- **Glass choices: standard \$, non-glare \$\$, museum \$\$\$ are options.**

- **For safety, especially for pieces larger than 16X20, plexiglass or non-glare plexiglass should be considered.**
- **Glass and plexiglass should be clean, unscratched and dust-free.**
- **All pieces should be clean, dust free, undamaged, and solidly constructed**
- **Placement of a title and/or signature is the photographer's choice.**
- **A hanging wire must be firmly anchored to the frame.**
  - **The anchors should be placed 1/3 down from the top edge of the frame.**
  - **The wire should have enough slack to form an inverted "V" with the apex about two inches below the top of the frame.**
  - **The ends of the wires must be securely wrapped with tape (for example, masking tape).**

# SOURCES FOR MATERIALS

## Local Sources:

- Jerry's Artarama [jerrysartarama.com/onsale.aspx](http://jerrysartarama.com/onsale.aspx)

3060 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC (919)876-6610

- Frame Warehouse [www.framewarehouse.net](http://www.framewarehouse.net)

1327 Kildaire Farm Rd, Cary, NC (919)481-0039

Excellent source for cut glass at a low price. CPA members may be eligible for a discount, check with the store before purchase.

- Michael's <http://www.michaels.com>

340 Crossroads Blvd, Cary, NC (919)851-6001

- AC Moore <http://www.acmoore.com>

429 Crossroads Blvd, Cary, NC (919)816-8100

## Online Sources:

- **Archival Methods (Offers complete frame and matting kits; instructional videos)**

[www.archivalmethods.com/](http://www.archivalmethods.com/)

- **Décor Frames (Great prices on a large selection of metal frames)**

[www.decor-frame.com/](http://www.decor-frame.com/)

- **Frame Destination (Wood and metal frames, cut matboard)**

[www.framedestinations.com/](http://www.framedestinations.com/)

**There are also two excellent, step-by-step instructions written by two CPA members. They have detailed and easy to follow step-by-step instructions for cutting matboard, mounting photographs and assembling artwork. Use one or all the steps, depending on your level of involvement.**

➤ **MOUNTING-MATTING-FRAMING by J.J. Raia**

[jjraiaphoto.wordpress.com/mounting-matting-framing-2/](http://jjraiaphoto.wordpress.com/mounting-matting-framing-2/)

➤ **MATTING AND FRAMING by Michael Greenstein**

<http://www.caryphotographicartists.org/education.html>