

CARE TIPS FOR PASTELS:

Once it is under glass, preferably UV blocking, and framed, pastels just need to be kept in a non-humid space, so that no condensation can occur. Temperature should be relatively stable, no extreme heat/cold fluctuations, for the same reason. Even with UV blocking, avoid placing in an area with extended periods of direct sunlight. Avoid too much movement, as pastel particles can shake loose.

For framing, make sure everything is archival (acid free); there is space between the glass and art, either with a mat, or spacers; they don't drymount the art or use glue or regular tape (linen tape is best); they don't use fixative on the art; and they install a dust cover on the back. A good frame shop should use these techniques, but it is a good idea to ask if not sure. Or if you frame it yourself, follow these tips for best results.

SHIPPING/TRANSPORTING PASTELS:

Of course, you can go the "top of the line" route and purchase the wonderful iron clad, foam lined boxes created specifically for shipping this type of artwork, however they are extremely expensive. To improvise and create something safe and less expensive, here's help:

You will need the following items/materials: a clean and sturdy, undamaged cardboard box a few inches larger on all sides than the artwork you are planning on shipping; bubble wrap; an inexpensive foam "egg carton" type bed mattress (this can be purchased at Wal Mart or a similar store in various sizes), or regular thick foam; a sheet of newsprint or similar inexpensive paper; packing tape; permanent marker; "Fragile" labels.

First, cut the newsprint to fit perfectly over the glass of your painting.
(Or, for added protection, you can also crisscross tape first over the glass in case it breaks, so that the glass won't cut up the pastel artwork. But that can be hard to remove later, and not recommended on "museum glass". Or use a product available from Airfloat called Glasskin, a low-tack tape 12 inches wide used to cover the glass when shipping.)

Next you will need to wrap bubble wrap securely around the artwork in both directions. This step is very important as it doubly protects your art. Now secure with tape, but do not over tape, as you don't want to make it too difficult on the other end to undo.

Next use the foam mattress to create a liner for the box by cutting pieces and strips to fit on each side of the painting (top and bottom), as well as on ALL sides of the box. When you have completed this step you should have formed at least a two inch cushion around your artwork on every side - top, bottom, sides and ends.

Here it is important to note that you should never use packing peanuts when shipping art for many reasons. Not only are they messy to unpack, but they also can cause static to build up. This could damage your pastel.

You can add rigid supports (foamcore, or 1/8" or so wood panels) to flat sides if using a shipping service. Then tape whole bundle together, and insert in box. Add "Fragile" labels, and mark this side up. (flat, art side up)

Finally, transport it flat, art side up, so that pastel particles don't shake loose. If a very large piece, transport vertically, so that the glass doesn't flex and possibly break.

CLASSIC PET PORTRAITS

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Leah Knecht
cell: 626-644-8081
studio: 626-791-3725
E-Mail: leah@classicpetportraits.com
Web: www.classicpetportraits.com