

CARING FOR YOUR WATERCOLOR ART

Watercolors are luminescent and add a soothing, and serene charm to your space. By keeping in mind the following recommendations, you can assure they remain beautiful, and preserve them for posterity.

ARCHIVAL MATTING & FRAMING

Archival framing assures the look, life, and quality of your watercolor for decades to come. It protects the piece from damage caused by changes in the environment and humidity.

When choosing a mat and backer board, make sure they are both archival and 100% acid-free. Acidity in framing materials will damage watercolor paper.

To adhere the painting to the mat, use a PH-neutral, archival, water-based adhesive tape. Glue will cause irreparable damage to and staining on the painting, whereas the tape will not.

Watercolors are best off when you frame them under glass. They become reconstituted when they come into contact with moisture. Colors may shift, run or break, thereby ruining the painting. A glass front will also protect the painting from dust. Make sure your mat is thick enough to create space between the glass of the frame and the painting. If the artwork is too close to the glass, it could stick to the glass over time, thereby damaging the painting.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Watercolor paintings should be kept in a temperature-controlled room, away from direct heat sources (e.g. radiators, heat-emitting appliances, etc.) and humidity (e.g. bathrooms, kitchens, etc.). Drastic temperature fluctuations, extreme temperatures, and moisture will damage the color pigments permanently.

LIGHTING

Do not hang your painting in direct sunlight, as this can make the painting fade and/or yellow over time. Even with lightfast watercolor paint, color pigments in watercolors are extremely sensitive and will quickly fade when exposed to the ultra-violet rays in sunlight and fluorescent light. Modern pigments are far less fugitive nowadays, but careful hanging is still vital to their longevity.

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