



Camera

notes

The features on the camera you use will determine to a large extent the quality of the digital images of your artwork.

When buying a camera, you can choose between two types. A less expensive, compact point-and-shoot camera can be purchased for under \$150 and will make excellent images of your artwork. Or you can buy a more expensive digital SLR (single lens reflex) with a wider range of features for under \$500. Base a final decision on your budget, your other photographic interests, and on your level of comfort with using more advanced camera features. Don't buy more camera than you need or can use.

Whichever type of camera you buy, it should have the following features to help you shoot high-quality images of your artwork:

- Resolution – The camera should have a resolution of at least six megapixels. This will ensure that fine details in your artwork will be reproduced in slides and in prints as large as 8"x10".
- Exposure – You should be able to set a manual exposure or make adjustments to the camera's automatic exposure. This lets you get the correct exposure for lighter or darker works.
- White Balance – You will want to set the white balance on the camera to match the light source you are using. This ensures that the colors in your images are correct.
- Flash – You should be able to disable the on-camera flash. This will allow you to use external lighting to achieve more even illumination of your artwork.

Other features to consider are the ease of focusing, an optical zoom, a viewfinder, the size of the LCD display, and the overall ease of use. You will also need a cable or memory card reader to transfer images to your computer.