

## Q & A: MasterWorks Miniature/Small Fine Art Division

### 1. **What is a Miniature?**

A miniature is a piece of artwork done in 1/6<sup>th</sup> scale or less and the overall painting is not larger than 25 square inches. That means if something is 6 inches tall, it cannot be more than 1 inch tall in a painting. Miniatures are also known for their realistic details. For 3-D works the miniature must fit into an area no larger than 3 x 3 x 6 inches vertically or horizontally.

### 2. **What is a Small Fine Art piece in this Division?**

Small Fine Art are pieces that are either impossible or near impossible to render at 1/6<sup>th</sup> scale, such as a bumble bee, hummingbird and other small subject matter. It can also mean subjects that are portrayed less than life size. It is important that it show details.

### 3. **Why is the artwork juried and judged in its totality?**

In one word, tradition. Presentation has always played a part in any piece of artwork. With Miniatures/ Small Fine Art being so small, the wrong frame, a miss-cut mat, a scratch on the glazing, all contribute or distract from the artwork. Everything must work together.

### 4. **What if I use more than one media in my artwork?**

The general rule is if a piece of art is primarily 80% of a specific medium, it is labeled as that medium. For example: the painting is primarily Watercolor and you've added some ink. It would be labeled as a Watercolor. If the piece is 60% Watercolor and 40% another medium or several media, it then becomes Mixed media.

### 5. **Why do we use Bumpons?**

They help the painting hang vertically straight, adjusting the tilt that is caused by the D-rings or Eye-Screws. When a small painting tilts forward the frame can cast a shadow onto the painting obstructing the viewer from seeing the artwork in its best form.

In Albuquerque a great place to purchase Bumpons is TJ Hardware.

### 6. **Why no easel back frames?**

The easel does not allow for the painting to hang straight.

### 7. **Why should the backs of the paintings be neatly covered?**

There are two reasons for this. The first has to do with paintings framed under glass or Plexiglass. The back covering keeps dust from getting between the artwork and the glass. The second reason has to do with it being a Miniature. These paintings are not always hung on a wall. Many times, they are displayed on side-tables or shelves where the back is visible. Covering the back makes for a more complete presentation.

### 8. **Why do we need to bring our artwork in a box that closes?**

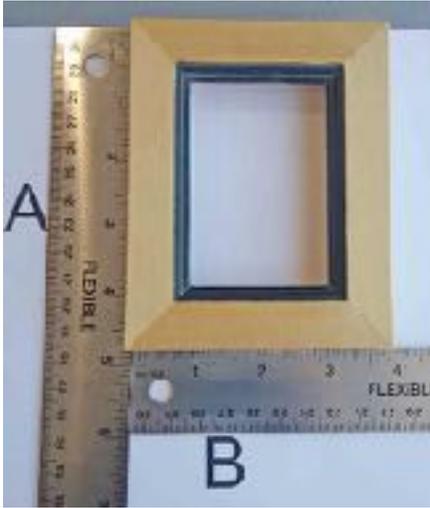
With hundreds of entries and limited space, we wish to keep all the artwork from being damaged. The boxes are stacked until it is time to unpack them for the jurors. We also assign a number to each box, which is how the juror identifies the entry.

### 9. **Why is the limit 56 square inches in the frame size?**

Originally, Miniature artwork would fit in the palm or a hand or in a pocket. Over the years, the frame size as well as the image size has increased to allow for more artistic presentation. Too large and it loses the sense of miniaturization or small by overwhelming the artwork. Ask yourself which do you want the viewer focusing on: the artwork or the frame?

**10. How do I know my frame meets the size requirements?**

Measure the outside height (A) edge of the frame and multiply that number by the outside width (B) edge of your frame. That will give you the square inches.



A X B = Square Inches of the Frame

**11. How do I choose a frame for my artwork? Ask yourself these questions.**

- a. Does the frame cast a shadow on the artwork?
- b. Does the frame distract from the artwork?
- c. Does the frame make the artwork the central focus?
- d. Does the molding style complement the artwork?
- e. Is the frame in good shape?
- f. Is the frame of a gallery quality or look like it is from a discount store?
- g. Does the color of the frame complement the artwork?

**12. How do I figure the square inches of my artwork?**

Measure the height of your painting and multiply that number by the width of your painting.

**13. How were the dimensions for 3-D determined?**

In 2-D, the size limit with frames is 56 square inches. In trying to convert the 2-D size to 3-D, which is cubic inches, the 3 inch x 3 inch x 6 inch (vertical or horizontal) came closest in size at 54 cubic inches.

**14. How was it determined what size the unframed artwork could be entered?**

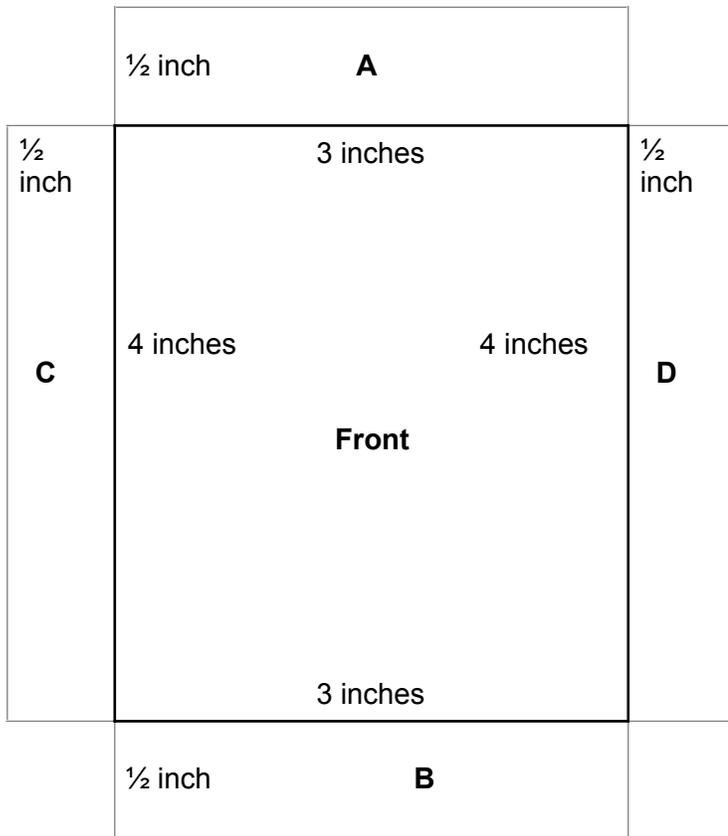
The Prospectus states that the image can be no more than 25 square inches. An unframed panel or canvas has sides that are visible to the viewer and becomes part of the artwork. When calculating the 25 sq. in., one must figure the square inches on all the sides and add that to the front of the artwork. All the accepted sizes of unframed artwork are less than the 25 square inch limit and were chosen because of their ready-made availability.

Non-Framed Artwork – approved sizes

- 2 x 3 x ½ inches = 11 sq inches
- 3 x 3 x ½ inches = 14 sq inches
- 3 x 4 x ½ inches = 19 sq inches
- 4 x 4 x ½ inches = 24 sq inches
- 2 x 3 x ¾ inches = 13 ½ sq inches
- 3 x 3 x ¾ inches = 18 sq inches
- 3 x 4 x ¾ inches = 22 ½ sq inches

A  $4 \times 4 \times \frac{3}{4}$  inches = 28 sq. inches is **too large** to meet the requirements.

**15. How Unframed Artwork Is Measured.**



Side A:  $\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 1.5$

Side B:  $\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 1.5$

Side C:  $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$

Side D:  $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$

Front:  $3 \times 4 = 12$

Total Square Inches = 19 square inches

**16. What information is needed on the labels for each piece of artwork?**

- a) Your name or at least the first initial and full last name.
- b) The name of the piece.
- c) The medium such as: Oil. We do not need to know if it is on canvas, plywood, board, etc. Same with the medium Watercolor. We do not need to know that it is on 300lb paper.
- d) Lastly, the price.

It is important that your label information, as well as if it is Entry 1, 2, 3, etc., agrees with the order and information you entered online. The label helps us to coordinate the jurying process with the computer-generated information from your online registration form. All spellings and prices are taken from the computer-generated information and will not be changed if different on the label.