

Q & A: MasterWorks Miniature Fine Art Division

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

According to its international definition, Miniature Fine Art is fine art on a small scale with minute attention to detail which can be enlarged or withstand close inspection without revealing any faults. As a guideline (not a rule) for a general definition of small scale, a subject should be no larger than 1/6th actual size. That means if something is 6 inches tall, it should not be more than 1 inch tall in a painting. Subjects too small for portrayal in 1/6th scale or non-representational work should meet the spirit of the definition.

2. ***What is the size limit for a 2-D work?***

The artwork image must be less than or equal to 25 square inches (height times width). Example: A 4 x 6 painting is 24 square inches. The framed size of the artwork must be less than or equal to 56 square inches.

3. ***Why the limit of 56 square inches for 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 and may overwhelm the artwork. Ask yourself which do you want the viewer to focus on: the artwork or the frame?

4. ***What is the size limit for a 3-D work?***

For 3-D works the miniature must fit into an area no larger than 3 x 3 x 6 inches vertically or horizontally.

5. ***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 Miniature 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.

6. ***What if I use more than one medium 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.

7. ***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 preventing the viewer from seeing the artwork in its best form.

8. ***Why no easel back frames?***

The easel does not allow the painting to hang straight.

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

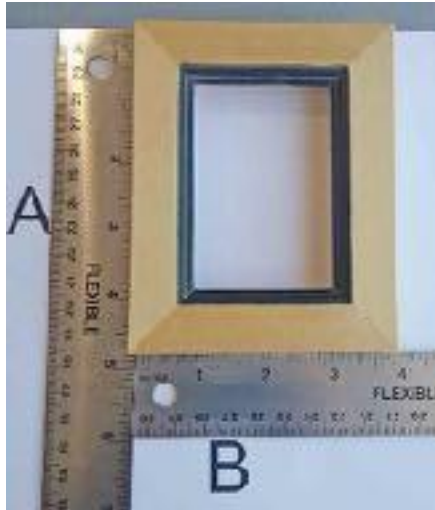
There are two reasons for this. The first has to do with paintings framed under glass or Plexiglass. The back covering keeps dust from getting between the artwork and the glass. The second reason has to do with it being a Miniature. These paintings are not always hung on a wall. Many times, they are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

10. ***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.

11. ***How do I know if 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 square inches.



$A \times B = \text{Square Inches of the Frame}$

12. 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 does it look like it is from a discount store?
- g. Does the color of the frame complement the artwork?
- h. Is it no deeper than 1 inch? This is a change from the 2025 depth.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. How was it determined what size unframed artwork could be entered?

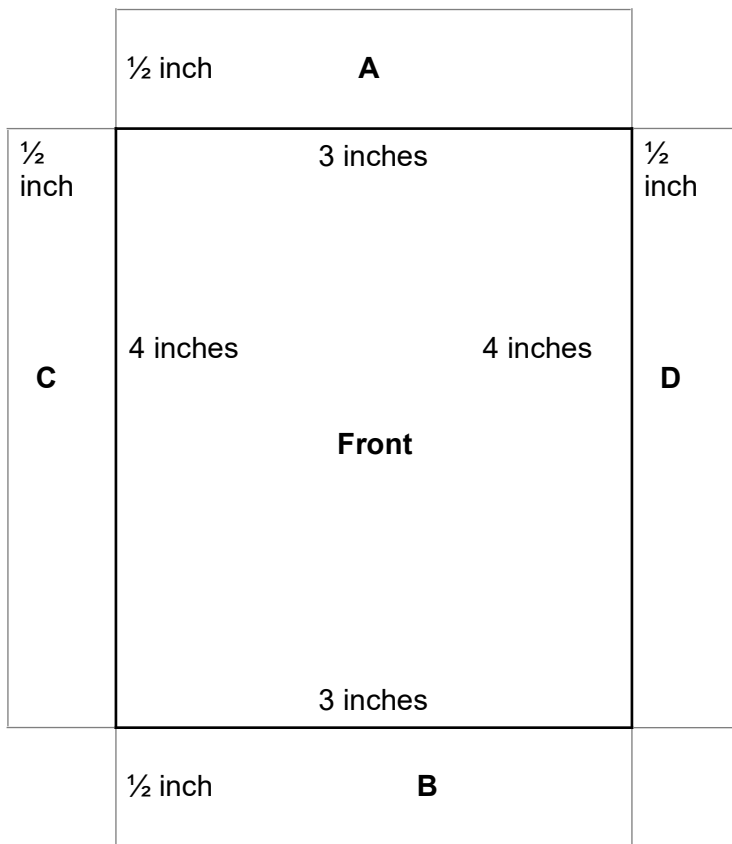
The Prospectus states that the image can be no more than 25 square inches. An unframed panel or canvas has sides that are visible to the viewer and becomes part of the artwork. When calculating the 25 sq. in., one must figure the square inches on all the sides and add that to the front of the artwork. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 11 sq inches
- 3 x 3 x $\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 14 sq inches
- 3 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 19 sq inches
- 4 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 24 sq inches
- 2 x 3 x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches = 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ sq inches
- 3 x 3 x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches = 18 sq inches
- 3 x 4 x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches = 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ sq inches

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

16. 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

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

- Your name or at least the first initial and full last name.
- The name of the piece.
- 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.
- 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.