

Digital Photos for Entry Files

To the right is a digital photo taken at home, using a Canon G9 camera. This is fairly high end digital camera, a step above most point and shoot digital cameras, and yet a step below a digital SLR type camera. This shot was taken outside, during the day but not under a porch to use indirect sun. It has a middle tone background. If you have a studio setup, your lighting, and your painting placement is much more precise, and a professional photographer is a step up from that. But, just to show you, it can be done this way for an entry level image.

Notes to go with demo

Crop & Correct Image Placement

1. Crop the image closer to the painting. (Select an area with the Marquee tool, then select Edit, Crop). Get as close as possible without cutting any of the actual painting off.
2. Use the Free Transform command under the Edit menu, by selecting all of the painting (ctrl A), and then selecting Free Transform (ctrl T). This gives "gripper" boxes at each corner and midpoint of the image.
3. Resize the image to even out the corners. If you drag a corner out, it will enlarge the image. Hold the ctrl (control) button down, while stretching each corner, to square the painting out. Once the image appears straight and even, hit return to complete the action. This is awkward, and takes some level of skill to learn. Also, if your painting is rotated slightly, you may need to adjust by rotating. This can be done in the Free Transform as well. Note there are information boxes at the menu level.

Color Touchup

1. Most photos are dull or flat if not taken with professional setup. You can compensate with software touch up. Go to Image, Adjust, Levels. This gives a box shown at right. This is a Histogram. It shows in a bar graph format, where your pixel range is in the photo. Triangles shown as solid, gray, and open indicate Black, 50% Midtone, and White. you can see here that there is no black, the curve happens somewhere right of the triangle. Generally, a good photo will have balance, some black, some white, and the midtone somewhere in the middle. This graph shows that although no black pixels are here, most of the pixel range is between black and the midtone, with noticeably less whites.

To make adjustments, the black arrow, and right arrow are shifted in, to balance better. This creates a much richer, better contrast image.

OK, this isn't really **color** touch up, but generally, this step is all you need most of the time. If you aren't satisfied with this, you should probably check out your photography area.

