

Copy Work Notes
March 13, 2012

Set up:

I used a horizontal set up. The work is placed against a white backing board. I used a thin white laminate material. I propped the work up on a piece of white mat board.

Lights set at 45 degree angles to the work about 5 feet away. I used umbrellas and slave strobes on stands. Both units are plugged into the same 12 foot extension cord. Each unit is about the same height as the work. The tripod is about 4 feet from the work and at the same height and the back of the camera is parallel to the work. I shot all work horizontal and later rotated vertical work in editing.

I was able to shoot framed work behind glass without getting any reflections. I closed the drapes and turned out the side lamps while shooting.

Camera:

I used my Sony DSC-HX9V digital camera.

Everything was set to Manual. I focused each shot using a flashlight on the work so I could see to focus in the viewfinder.

F: 13

Shutter: 100

ISO: 100

Still image size: 16 M

WB: Flash

Color Mode: Standard



Shooting:

I held a small hand mirror behind a small paperback book (for shielding) at a 45 degree angle in front of the camera flash pointed up at the ceiling. This way the camera flash is reflected up and does not hit the work directly but triggers the slave strobes.

Problems:

It's hard to focus. The manual focus advances in steps so it's hard to get an exact focus. If you preview the shot after taking it and wait too long, the camera turns off (the flash goes down) and you have to start all over - zoom in, re-focus, etc.

Conclusions:

This is a good way to copy paintings. The lighting is even. The color is good. White levels can be easily set in editing.