What “Ready to Hang” Means

One of the purposes of the Juried Student Exhibition is to introduce students to the process of preparing and submitting art for professional art spaces. Certain 2-d media require preparation to make them ready for gallery presentation. You will see this standard submission expectation often expressed as “works must be delivered ready to hang.” Below are some requirements, suggestions, and department resources to help you prepare your work so it is mounted sufficiently with appropriate hardware to attach to a wall.

Required:
Small works on paper up to 16” x 20” such as photos and drawings must be matted with a white or off-white generous border (usually more than 2”) and framed. Larger works on paper should also be matted and framed, but due to budget considerations, a mat with glass only and foam core backing is acceptable. Though please note that framed works are more readily bought. Of course there are exceptions as works on paper are sometimes made for a more raw display, not intended to be framed. The key point here is to demonstrate that you are informed about your intention. Jurors do look at how well an artist is informed not only about making the image but how to present it well.

Suggested:
Don’t paint the sides of stretched canvas paintings unless you want to emphasize it as a three-dimensional object. There are paintings at the Portland Museum of Art and museums all over the world with paint drippings on the sides. They are authentic remnants of the artist’s exploration on a two-dimensional surface.

Paintings on stretchers do not need frames. If you want to frame your painting, that is a personal choice but make sure you know how to do it well. Poorly chosen materials with badly joined corners can distract rather than enhance the art.

For the back of your stretcher, the museum preferred hardware is D-rings (consisting of a metal part with a hole for screws and a D shaped ring for a picture hook available in art stores). Eyehooks and wire are also acceptable. If you submit a stretcher without hardware, make sure that the stretcher bars can rest securely on screws with enough space between the screw heads and the canvas.

Resources:
Ask your art professors for advice about how to best present your work.

You are welcome to call or bring in works before the submission date and ask gallery director Carolyn Eyler for presentation suggestions. 780-5008.

Supplies:
A.C. Moore, The Christmas Tree Shop, and Michaels in the South Portland Mall area all carry very inexpensive frames often with mats in standard sizes. Faculty and students have found good deals on-line as well.