

# Glossary of Terms for Framing:

## **Anti-Reflective Glass**

A type of coated glass that greatly reduces reflection without distorting the art behind it.

## **Acid-Free Paper**

paper manufactured such that active acids are not included or are eliminated. A paper that has a neutral pH factor of 6.5 to 7.5 at the time of manufacture. Acid-free paper can be produced from virtually any cellulose fiber source (cotton, wood or others) if measures are taken during manufacturing to eliminate active acid from the pulp. No matter how acid-free a paper may be immediately after manufacture, over time chemicals from processing or pollutants from the air may lead to the formation of acid in the paper. The presence of an alkaline buffer will reduce or eliminate damaging effects of these acids for the duration of the buffer's effectiveness. The most common buffering additive is calcium carbonate. Some acidic materials are chemically neutralized with the addition of alkaline products; other materials are processed to remove the acid.

## **Archival Components**

are framing materials such as mat board, mount board and acrylic that are designed to help preserve and protect the artwork from the damage and degradation caused by acids, light and pollution. This includes components made pH neutral or slightly alkaline to help with acidity, those with UV protection to help with light, and those with zeolites to help with pollution.

## **Back Paper**

also known as a dust cover, is a liner paper adhered to the back of a frame. The back paper keeps dust and insects out of the frame package. It also helps reduce fluctuations in humidity, limits the infiltration of environmental gases, and gives your framed artwork a professional look.

## **Beveled Edge**

when the inside edge of the mat board window is cut to a 45 degree angle. This allows about 1/16" of the core color to be visible.

## **Bottom-Weighting**

when the bottom border of the mat board is wider than the other borders. The concept of bottom-weighting is based on the fact that the optical center (the place where a viewer's eye spends most of its time) is slightly above the true geometric center in a rectangular region.

## **Bumpers/Bumpons**

Rubber or felt pads that are placed on the bottom two corners of the frame. These provide an air space behind the frame and help keep the frame straight on the wall.

## **Canvas Floater Frame**

a type of frame used to display a gallery wrap canvas. This frame allows the entire front surface of the canvas to be visible. Any color applied to the canvas wrapping the sides of the stretcher bars will be somewhat visible in the 'float' space.

## **Clear Glass**

The standard type of glass used in frames.

## **Conservation Grade Framing Materials**

materials such as mat board, mount board, glass and acrylic that are designed to minimize the artwork's deterioration by environmental factors.

**Conservation Glass**

Glass with filtering properties to block harmful ultraviolet rays.

**Double Mat**

consists of two (2) mat boards (top and bottom). The window (opening) of the bottom mat surrounds the image. The top mat covers the bottom mat. It has a larger window, which allows a small border of the bottom mat, called the reveal, to be shown.

**D-Ring**

a D-shaped, usually metal ring of various sizes, used on clothing or other articles as a closure, a means of securing straps or objects, or a decoration.

**Dry-Mounting**

the application of artwork to a substrate, such as foam core, using heat-activated adhesives in a heat press.

**Dust Cover**

a liner paper adhered to the back of a frame. The dust cover keeps dust and insects out of the frame package. It also helps reduce fluctuations in humidity, limits the infiltration of environmental gases, and gives your framed artwork a professional look.

**Fillet**

also called enhancers or slips, fillets are thin, decorative pieces of picture frame moulding. Fillets are often placed inside a larger frame or in between mat boards.

**Float Mount**

a mounting technique where the edges of the artwork are left uncovered by a mat board. With this application the artwork appears to be floating within the frame or mat board window. Artwork can also be float-mounted on a piece of black or white foam core without a mat.

**Foam Core**

the board on which artwork is mounted upon inside of a picture frame. Foamcore mount board is a light, but stiff material that is commonly available in white and black. Acid-free varieties are available for conservation framing. See also Mount Board.

**Gallery Wrap**

a modern style of displaying art in which a canvas is stretched so that it wraps around the sides of a thick wooden frame and is secured to the back of the frame. It is suitable for displaying without a picture frame, or can be mounted in a Canvas Floater Frame.

**Chunk Gallery Wraps**, canvas will be wrapped around 2.5” thick wooden stretcher bars. It’s a substantial, eye-catching look.

**Thick Gallery Wraps**, canvas will be wrapped around 1.5” thick wooden stretcher bars. It’s a clean, modern look that’s ready to hang.

With **Thin Gallery Wraps**, your canvas is wrapped around .75” thick wooden stretcher bars. It should be framed.

**Giclée**

a high-quality fine art print created with an inkjet printer.

**Japanese Paper**

a high quality paper made from fibers of the mulberry tree. Japanese paper makes great hinges because is strong without being bulky and does not discolor or weaken with age.

**Limited Edition Print**

When an artist or publisher creates a defined amount of prints and will print no more of that image. Edition sizes can vary from several to thousands. Generally these will be signed by the artist and numbered, such as 1/1000, 2/1000, etc.

**Mat Board**

a material that covers and protects the image. Mat boards have a window (also known as the exact mat opening) cut in the center through which the image can be viewed. In addition to protecting the image, mat boards are available in many different styles and colors for the purpose of enhancing artwork.

**Moulding**

the material (either wood or metal) of the picture frame. Moulding can be very ornate and decorative, or it can be very simple.

**Mount Board**

the board on which artwork is mounted upon inside of a picture frame. Foamcore mount board is a light, but stiff material that is commonly available in white and black. Acid-free varieties are available for conservation framing.

**Mounting**

the act of attaching artwork to the mat board, mount board, backer or display board. One way of mounting is by using hinging. See also Dry-Mounting, Pressure-Sensitive Mounting, and Wet-Mounting.

**Museum Glass**

The best glass available to protect the art from harmful ultraviolet light, while also reducing reflection.

**Non-Glare Glass**

A type of glass that greatly reduces glare but also can cause a cloudiness or distortion, especially when it sits away from the art as it will with a double or triple mat.

**Non-Glare Acrylic**

acrylic with a matte finish etched on one side to reduce glare from lighting. It is optically pure (no tint), and may cause a slight loss in sharpness. When framing with non-glare acrylic remember that the matte side goes away from the artwork.

**Overlap**

a term that refers to how much of the artwork will be covered by the mat board. A standard mat window opening overlaps anywhere from 1/8" – 1/4" of the artwork.

**Picture Frame**

provides an attractive border and functions as a structural support for the artwork.

**Plein Air Picture Frame**

"en plein air" is a French term that translates to "in the open air". In the art world it is used to describe the acting of painting outdoors. Plein air painting is often associated with the Impressionist art movement. A plein air frame is usually a wide flat moulding with a raised and rounded top edge. Plein air frames are ideal for canvas art.

**Plexiglas®**

a brand of conservation grade acrylic glazing.

**Ply**

a ply (plural - plies) is a layer within a mat board. High quality mat boards are manufactured in plies, dyed for color and laminated together. Mat board comes in 2-ply, 4-ply, 6-ply and 8-ply. Standard mat board is 4-ply and is 1/16" thick. Some mat board is not manufactured with separate plies, but will often be referred to as 4-ply to give a relative indication of the approximate thickness.

**Points**

thin metal tabs used to hold the mat, mount board and/or glazing inside of wood picture frames. Some points are stiff while others are flexible to allow access into the frame.

**Profile**

a term describing how picture frame moulding looks when viewed from one end. A picture frame moulding's profile includes its height, width, contour and rabbet.

When you look at the end of a stick of moulding, this is the shape you would see.

**Rabbet**

the inner lip or groove of the picture frame, which holds the frame's components, including the glazing, mat(s), artwork and backing.

**Rabbet Depth**

The interior height of the frame where the contents will be placed.

**Rabbet Width**

The amount of the frame lip that will overlap onto the contents placed in the frame.

**Reveal**

a term used to describe the small bottom or middle mat border left visible in a double or triple mat application.

**Reverse Bevel**

a reverse-bevel cut positions the bevel inside of the mat window so that it is not visible. It gives a straight edge to the mat window.

**Riser**

the amount of distance between the top edge of the stretcher bar and the broad flat top of the stretcher bar. The riser determines how much distance you will have between the canvas and the top face of the stretcher bar.

**Sawtooth Hangers**

small metal bars with a serrated (sawtooth) edge that are used in place of hanging wire. Sawtoothed hangers are best for lighter weight picture frames.

**Screw Eyes**

screws with a loop at the end. They are used to attach hanging wire to the back of a wooden picture frame.

**Spacer**

holds the artwork away from the surface of the glazing. Spacers can be made of plastic, wood, mat board or foam core.

**Stretched Canvas**

a canvas that has been mounted onto a stretcher bar support framework in preparation for framing or hanging.

**Stretcher Bar Frame**

a type of heavy wooden frame designed for a canvas to be wrapped and secured around it.

**Stretcher Bars**

the four (4) pieces of wood material that make up a stretcher bar frame.

**Tooth**

a characteristic of the grain in the surface of various paper, especially drawing papers, handmade papers, and other papers of low finish. A patterned roughness in the form of minute depressions between fibers or groups of fibers on the surface. Tooth can be produced on the paper machine during forming or pressing.

**Triple Mat**

consists of three (3) mat boards (top, middle and bottom). The window (opening) of the bottom mat surrounds the image. The middle mat covers the bottom mat and it has a larger window which allows a small border of the bottom mat, called the reveal, to be shown. The top mat covers the middle and bottom mats and it has an even larger window which allows a small border, also called the reveal, of both lower mats to be shown.

**V-Groove**

a type of matboard cut where a thin line is cut around the top mat's window opening. The v-groove exposes the matboard's inner core color. It's a purely decorative cut done for the sole purpose of generating extra focus on the artwork.

**Wall Bumpers**

small, felt-covered or soft rubbery plastic adhesive-backed disks that provide a cushion between the frame and the wall. Bumpers also help the frame hang flat against the wall.

**Window**

also known as the exact mat opening, the window is the opening cut in a mat board through which the image can be viewed. The average ready-made, retail store frame for an 8" x 10" image will have a window of 7-1/2" x 9-1/2", which allows the mat to overlap the image by 1/4" on all 4 sides. Custom frame shops will typically cut a window for an 8" x 10" image at 7-3/4" x 9-3/4" so that less of the image is covered.