

# Hanging artwork – four simple tips!

By Diane Day, CPF

## Is there a right/wrong way to hang a frame?

Consider the size and weight of the framed piece, as well as the wall construction.

- Small frames: Picture frame wire can be strung between two hangers screwed to either side of the back of the frame.
- Large, heavy framing packages: Don't use wire. Attach the two hangers directly to two hooks in the wall.



A professional framer can advise on the correct hangers/hooks.

## How high?

Neck strain does not add to the viewing experience! Art admirers shouldn't have to look up – or down. The most appealing way to show framed artwork is to have the horizontal centerline of the art at eye level. Obviously, people are not the same height. Also, when people sit down there can be as much as a two feet difference in their eye level! Art hung in a living or dining room should be lower on the wall than art hung in a hallway.

## Is it straight?

The use of a level can help, but if the wall is out of square, the frame will not look level even if it is!

After you have marked the wall, temporarily tape to the wall a piece of cardboard that is the size of the frame or have someone hold the picture in place. Then step back and see if the frame appears to be straight.

When hanging a frame with picture hanging wire on the back, always use two wall hooks.

### **Where do I hang my art?**

Strong visual pieces – large oil paintings or a grouping of related pieces – will do well in bedrooms, dining rooms and living rooms. Hallways or other small areas can often support a series of smaller, framed pieces.

Don't hang a picture where it looks cramped, and don't hang a small frame in a large space, where it can visually get lost.

*A qualified professional framer will play an important role in the preservation of your art through the use of proper protective materials. Care should be taken in selecting a professional framer who is knowledgeable in preservation framing methods, which will help protect valuable art.*

*The Professional Picture Framers Association™ (PPFA®) is the international trade association for the art and framing industry. PPFA works to elevate professional standards in the industry by providing advanced educational programs and encouraging the continued professional development of custom picture framers.*

*Be sure to look for the purple and white PPFA member decal on the shop door or window!*