

“OPTIONS FOR MATTING AND FRAMING PHOTOS” WORKSHOP by Gene Lentz

Twelve SPC members attended this workshop on March 22 at **Betty Hendrix's** beautiful and well-equipped home studio in Whispering Pines. Betty did an excellent job of explaining and demonstrating the proper steps in framing photos, including the different types of mats and frames, and the tools necessary to do-it-yourself. She also mentioned local and online framing supply houses where one can purchase the supplies or complete ready-made frames and mats.

Here are the highlights from the workshop:

FRAMES

- Wood or composition ready-made frames – NO PLASTIC FRAMES.
Not too heavy in weight.
Photo should be the emphasis.
Select appropriate size and print your image to fit
or
Print image and select frame size 4 inches larger.
- Metal Frames – strips to assemble (use Plexiglas in metal – glass is risky).
Silver or neutral tones are always good.
- Glass – framed photos must be protected by a mat and glass or Plexiglas.
Betty uses museum grade Plexiglas almost exclusively – most exhibitions require it.
Ultraviolet light protection Plexiglas is very helpful in preserving color.
Plexiglas from hardware stores is not a good grade for framing.



MATTING

- Matting Materials
Acid-free or archival recommended.
Neutral tones preferred in exhibitions.
Mat is important to separate photo from glass or Plexiglas.
Available in 2, 4, 6, and 8 ply thickness (4 and 6 ply most popular).
- Selecting Mat Tones
Should not be lighter than the lightest tone or darker than the darkest tone in photo.
Off-white and grays are always good.
White or black only good with black-and-white photos.
Strong colors draw your eye out away from the photo.

TOOLS

- Mat Cutter
Dexter mat cutter – hand-held and inexpensive (\$25) – need good metal straight edge and cutting mat.
Logan or Alto basic mat cutter (\$100 - \$200).
Professional Logan or C&H cutters (\$600 - \$1,700).nd
Sometimes good used ones can be found.
- Mat Board and Foamcore.
Standard or archival mat board available by the sheet
Precut mats available at American Frame and Light Impressions Direct below.
Ordering full sheets of mat board (32"x40") online requires order of 10-15 sheets minimum at \$5-\$20/sheet.
- Hinging Tapes
Archival linen tape available at framing supply sources.
Coach or sport tape (pH neutral) in first-aid departments at drugstores.
Dermacil or paper skin tapes also in drugstores.
- Framing Sources
Michael's and Hobby Lobby
Framing Supply Houses
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com
www.americanframe.com
www.jerrysartarama.com
Google many other online sources