Tips for Taking Good Photos of Your Work

1. Select good lighting, ideally by a window on a bright day. A daylight or SAD lamp is also another useful tool to use, if it isn't already diffused (not harsh exposed bulb) you can soften it using thin white paper or similar (do not place directly or too close to the bulb, because it could catch fire!).

2. Remove any frames that your work is enclosed in, and remove any glass / plexiglas covering the image. Unless they are part of the artwork, frames are a distraction from your work, glass and plexiglas will create unwanted reflections.

3. Choose your background well. Find a plain white wall near a window/good light source, you can attach your image to, do not lean your work. You can also photograph outside if you are able to place your work on a clean wall. If you have a spirit level, use it to ensure your work is straight.

4. If you have a tripod for your camera, you can use it to ensure you don't get camera shake, and if it has spirit levels on it, you can line it up straight-on with the wall.

5. Make use of the grid lines on your camera (if it has them), as they can assist you in lining up your work correctly. Alternatively, if you find it more helpful, you can create a grid for your artwork to be placed upon. Make sure you are head on with the artwork, otherwise you'll get a skew-whiff image.

6. Leave a slight border around your work, rather than shooting right up to the edge, this can be cropped out later, and helps to align your work correctly.

7. If you are using a DLSR or compact camera set the image quality to the largest file size, so it can capture as much detail as possible.

8. When you are processing your image in your computer / phone's software (I recommend Lightroom for computers*, and Snapseed for smartphones), do not use any filters. The most you will need to do is perhaps alter the brightness, tonal levels, and if necessary, the white balance/warmth (this is especially true if you weren't able to photograph near daylight or equivalent source). You may have to rotate your image very slightly, or make a slight perspective adjustment, but if you are required to alter this too much, it may be worth taking the photo again, sticking to your grid lines.

9. If you are sending your image to processed, do not make any alterations or crop the image, as this will be done for you.

10. See your work in the Arts and Minds annual online exhibition!

*I've heard that GIMP is free cross platform editing software for computers. But I've never used it.