



How to Finish and Present 3D Artwork

Whether your artwork is large or small, there are some important things to think about when it comes to displaying your work. The following covers some of the issues that should be considered before presenting your work to a gallery for display.

SMALL WORK:



- **Presentation:** Risers, pedestals, etc. Consider adding a base as part of your composition/design.
- Artists like Constantin Brancusi designed their own bases for sculptures – to ensure balance, and to present sculpture in a way that enhance (without distracting from) the original concept.



CERAMICS:

- “Footing” is highly recommended. (Creating a ridge, rim, or knobs on which to settle your piece) This is much more stable than just trying to lay a ceramic piece flat onto a surface. Fired clay is also brittle and footing allows a small section to be thicker, and therefore more durable.



- You might also consider using small adhesive tabs, knobs, spacers, felt shapes, etc. to both stabilize piece and prevent scratching surfaces.

LARGE SCULPTURE:



- **Balance/Stability:** Make *absolutely sure* you have addressed this. It would be a shame for your art to topple over and break – but it might also be dangerous if your work is large in scale.
 - If you have a piece that is intended to sit flat, make sure that it is level across the bottom. Also, make sure that your piece is not overly top-heavy. If it is, consider installing interior support structures or attaching/anchoring your work to a heavy/solid base.
 - Attaching pads, cork, spacers, or feet to the bottom of your piece might help to achieve balance or stability.
 - Consider wiring a piece from the top (with fishing line if you want to go virtually invisible, or chain/rope/etc. if you want to try something more overt).
 - If you attach your piece to a base (such as a plane, block, or pedestal), it is possible to “weight” the base so that stability is more likely. You can also scale your base (bigger/wider/lower) to help keep your work upright. Many artists throughout history have designed their own bases to not only ensure stability, but also to better present their work.



- **Surfaces:**
 - Be aware that the material/media you have used might affect the surface of the pedestal/shelf/table/floor on which your work is presented. If you have used raw/unaged/untreated wood, for example, there is a possibility that moisture/sap/etc. might leech out and stain the support. Consider attaching felt pads/cork/rubber/etc. to any pieces that would make contact. These may also have the benefit of adding to the stability of

your work. If your work is rough-textured, this may also prevent scratching. Some galleries will have pads available, but smaller venues might not have as many resources.

- **Installation:**

- If your work is heavy, awkward, very delicate, or requires some complex assemblage, consider offering to help install it. Larger galleries may have installation teams/staff who are trained (and physically able) to help install larger work, but smaller galleries/venues might not. Be ready to move your work safely yourself or communicate with the gallery well in advance to find out how they want to handle installation.
- **Maps/Directions/Plans:** If you are unable to help install, or if the gallery prefers to handle it, it is still a good idea to provide directions for installation of more complicated works. Photos of proper installation are often appreciated, but clear directions are helpful as well.
- **Extra gear:** If you need special lighting, access to power (kinetic or motorized sculptures, light art, etc.), monitors, or any other extra gear, be sure to communicate with the gallery prior to delivery of work or have your own ready.

<https://help.artsper.com/hc/en-001/articles/360021862099-Which-pedestal-for-my-sculpture->

<https://www.pinterest.com/ttkkkk/footings/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Diameter-Adhesive-Cushions-Protects-Surfaces/dp/B00EJS641I>

https://www.amazon.com/Plymor-Brand-Fruitwood-Display-Base-75/dp/B0187W0A58/ref=sr_1_51?keywords=sculpture+base&qid=1656005450&sr=8-51

https://www.amazon.com/Adhesive-Drawers-Furniture-Dampening-Transparent/dp/B08NX9KXQP/ref=sr_1_19?crid=3T107Y4GOWST1&keywords=surface+protector+for+ceramic&qid=1656005538&srefix=surface+protector+for+ceramic%2Caps%2C138&sr=8-19

https://www.amazon.com/vensovo-Piece-Cork-Plant-Mats/dp/B08XNCQGS6/ref=sr_1_46?crid=3T107Y4GOWST1&keywords=surface+protector+for+ceramic&qid=1656005582&srefix=surface+protector+for+ceramic%2Caps%2C138&sr=8-46

https://www.amazon.com/Black-Metal-base-for-Sculptures/dp/B01LKN2MUQ/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=sculpture+base&qid=1656005649&sr=8-3

https://www.amazon.com/GOLDY-WENDY-Rectangular-Sculpture-Pedestal/dp/B09M6JVZ7P/ref=sr_1_13?keywords=sculpture+base&qid=1656005678&sr=8-13