

Photographing Your Artwork - 3D Work (Room 334 or 336)

Both studios (Room 334 and 336) are equipped with backdrop paper that can be rolled down over a table or to the floor to provide a seamless backdrop for 3D artwork

3D Work

Equipment Needed (available at the Checkout Window)

Canon 70D

Tripod

Small 3D work can be photographed in the light tent. (Note there is also a light tent in the Digital Commons, room 235 A+D)

For larger 3D work, you may roll the backdrop paper over a folding table or out onto the floor of the studio and set up the work directly on the paper.

Before you begin, consult the Camera Settings PDF for information on how to set up your camera.

Light Tent

1 Turn on the light tent using the switch on the power cord on the side of the tent.

2 Set your work in the center of the light tent, set your tripod up in front of the tent, and take your photograph!

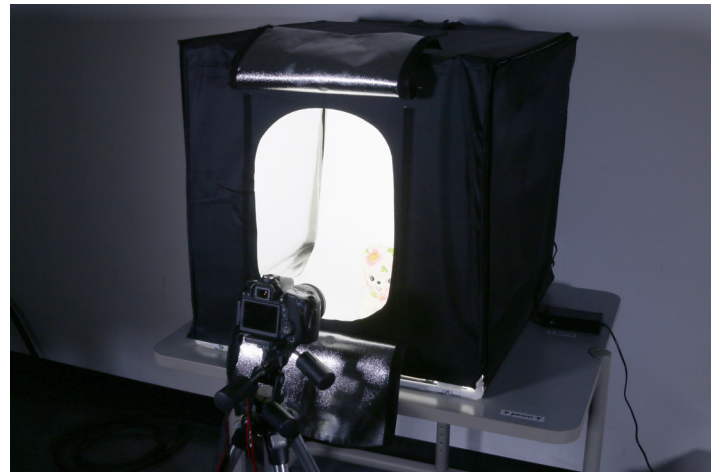


Fig 1 - Using the Light Tent



Fig 2 - Light Tent Sample Shot

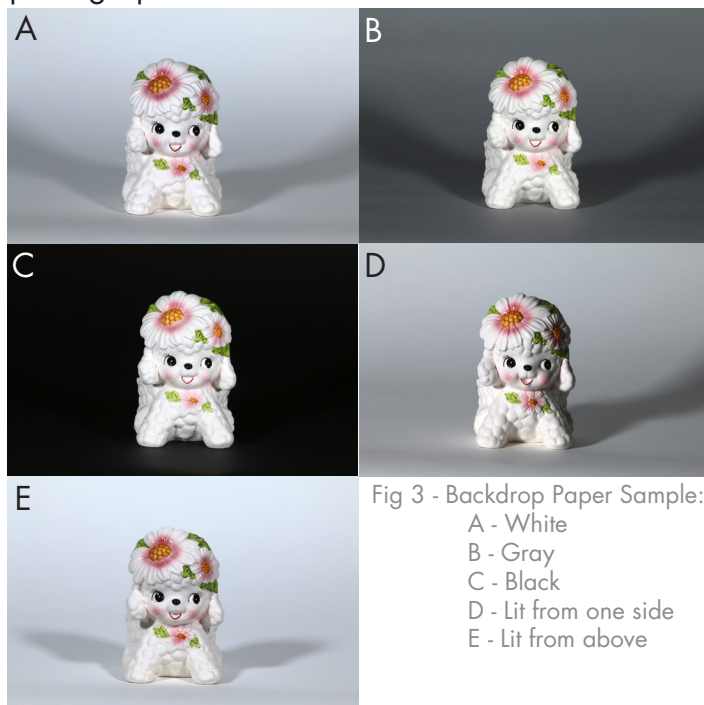


Fig 3 - Backdrop Paper Sample:

A - White

B - Gray

C - Black

D - Lit from one side

E - Lit from above

Backdrop Paper

When shooting 3D work on the backdrop paper, you have several options you will need to consider:

1. What color backdrop best suits my object?
2. What sort of lighting best describes my object?
3. What camera angle best suits your object?

It is often best to capture multiple angles/lighting setups/backgrounds while you are shooting so that you have more to choose from later.

1 Choose your desired backdrop paper color and place the hook of the crank in the loop for that paper roll.

PULL DOWN ON THE CRANK and then rotate to lower the paper.



Fig 4 - Choose Backdrop Color

2 If shooting on the table top, roll the paper gently over the top, being careful to avoid creasing the paper. Position the paper so that it hangs straight down and has a gentle curve down to the flat surface of the table. Place several books or other weights on either end of the table to hold the paper in place.

If your object is on the floor you may roll the paper out directly onto the floor. Position the paper so that it hangs straight down and has a gentle curve down to the flat surface of the floor.

Note: If the paper has a few foot prints or a few tears, just continue rolling the paper out until you come to a clean section. If the paper is very dirty or ragged, please report it to the Lab Assistant at the Checkout Window so that staff may come trim and repair the paper roll.

3 Set your object on the flat portion of the paper as far forward from the bend of the paper while still filling your frame with the backdrop.

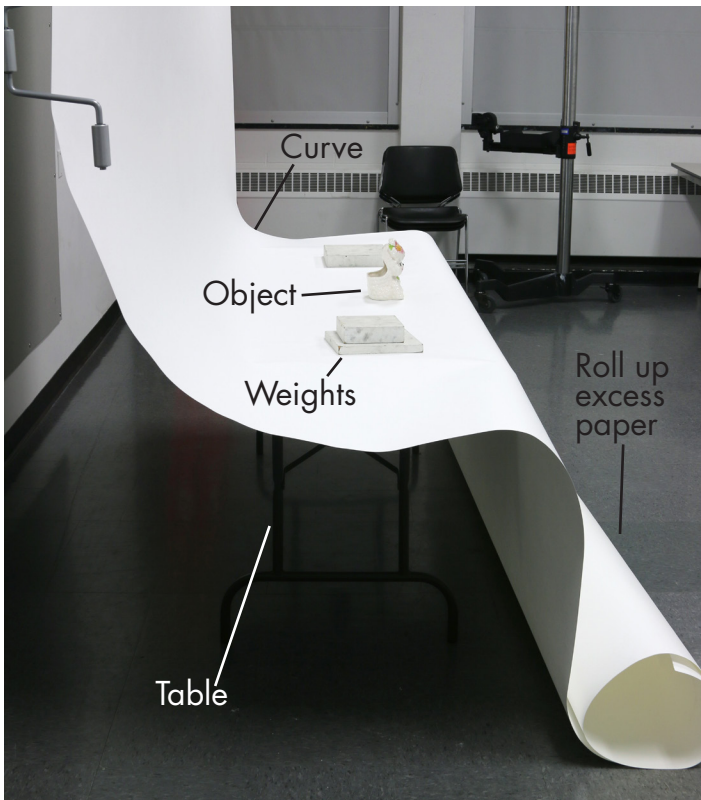


Fig 5 - Backdrop Paper on table



Fig 6 - Camera/Light Setup for large work



Fig 7 - Camera/Light Setup

4 Plug the LED light panels in to the mobile breaker box. All powered equipment in the studio should be plugged into these boxes, NOT into wall outlets.

Turn on both of the LED light panels by using the red power switches on the back. Make sure that the dimmer dials are turned up to full power. Turn off all other light sources in the room.

5 Start by positioning your camera directly in front of the artwork and adjust the height of your tripod so that the camera is pointing towards the middle of the piece.

6 The lights should be set up symmetrically at the same distance from the work and at approximately 45 degree angles (See diagram).

Set the lights far enough away from the work that they cast light evenly across the entire surface.

Adjust the lights vertically so that they are centered on the height of your object.

Note: If you notice a glare on your work from the lights, try moving the lights out from your camera to a wider angle. Just keep the setup symmetrical!

7 From this starting point, try to capture as large a variety of photographs and details as possible. You may want to consider:

- Rotating your object to get multiple angles.
- Adjusting your camera position to look at your object from above or below.
- Getting close-up details of important sections of your object.
- Repositioning lights to adjust where shadows fall on and around your object.
- Placing your object on different colored backdrop papers for varying contrast with its surroundings.

8 When you are done be sure to return any props to their storage spaces, roll the backdrop paper up, move the lights/stands back to the wall and unplug and store the LED light power cords.

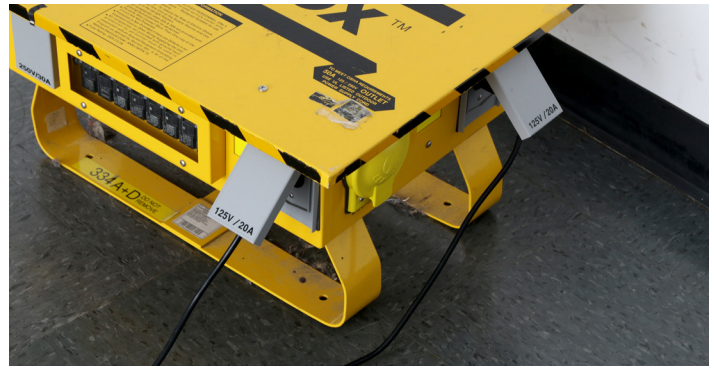


Fig 8 - Studio Power Breaker



Fig 9 - Power Switch

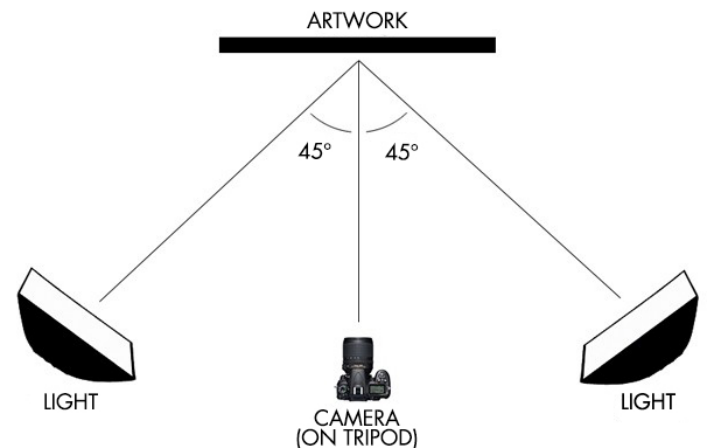


Fig 10 - Camera/Light Setup



Fig 11 - Store LED power cords