

# Unit 03: Finishing, Presentation and Storage of Negatives and Photographs

Content Area: **Fine Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **1-2 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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Materials used to finish, mount, matt and store the negative and print are as important as the finished print. Students will learn a variety of finishing techniques to help preserve, maintain and care for negatives and photographs including spotting, mounting, matting and appropriate storage.

## Transfer

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- • Matt and mount images for their home in keeping with a specific design.
- • Safely use a utility knife for matt cutting.
- • Select matts and frames appropriate for the image and room they will be displayed.
- • Select suitable artwork for their home.

## Essential Questions

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- • How are photographs stored for preservation?
- • How do finishing techniques contribute to image quality?
- • What are the key terms of finishing and presentation?
- • What defines a quality presentation?
- • What options are available for image presentation and how do I select which to use?
- • What safety precautions are needed when working with matt cutter and dry mount press?

## Essential Understandings

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- • A quality presentation is as important as quality work.
- • Finishing techniques contribute to the overall presentation and image quality of the artwork.
- • Working with new equipment requires precautionary measures and respect for the materials and studio space.

## Students Will Know

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- • How to create a quality presentation of their photographs.

- • How to handle the new equipment to achieve desired outcomes.
- • How to properly store their photographs to preserve them.
- • How to select an appropriate finishing option.
- • That a variety of options are available to the photographer for image presentation.
- • The basic techniques of spotting, mounting and matting for image presentation.
- • The key terms of finishing and presentation.
- • The safety procedures to follow when working with the matt cutter and dry mount press.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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- • Cropping prints for strongest composition.
- • Curating images for display.
- • Dry mounting images for matting.
- • Matting images to improve overall image presentation.
- • Measuring and cutting matts to size.
- • Spot toning photographic prints.
- • Working in a community studio with shared equipment.

## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • Appropriate use of studio equipment including the matt cutter, tacking iron and dry mount press.
- • Correctly measure and cut matt window with beveled edge for selected image.
- • Students will practice spotting dust and scratches from prints on test strips.
- • Students will read corresponding textbook chapters in Photography In Focus on finishing and storage techniques.
- • Students will respond to the following writing prompt based on their learning and understanding of presentation. "How do finishing techniques contribute to image quality? Cite specific examples based on your experience."
- • Submit and display mounted and matted images for evaluation.

## **Learning Plan**

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- • Discuss impact of both types of images.
- • Individualized critique and support throughout the mounting process to ensure success.
- • Internet browsing of contemporary gallery to see how work is displayed.
- • Lecture on safety, care and use of new equipment.
- • Presentation and hands on large and small group demonstration of following: Hand spotting dirt and dust marks from images. Use of dry mount press to mount work. Calculation of overall matt cuts and window openings. Correct use of matt cutter.
- • Presentation of completed spotted, mounted and matted images contrasted by loose unmounted prints.

- • Students will build vocabulary during critique session by using appropriate terminology when referencing work.
- • Students will complete writing prompt related to study of finishing, presentation and storage.
- • Students will critique work of peers emphasizing skills of presentation vs. aesthetic quality and visual appeal.
- • Students will practice spotting, mounting and matting images.
- • Students will produce properly spotted, mounted and matted image for display in room.
- • Students will read and outline textbook Chapter 20: Finishing, Presentation and Storage.

## **Materials**

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- dry mount press, tacking iron, dry mount tissue
- Matt cutter, matt board, rulers
- PowerPoint
- Print file negative sleeves
- Scissors, glue, markers, posterboard
- Smartboard, Document camera and Projector
- Spotone, brushes
- Student examples
- Textbook: Photography In Focus, Jerry Burchfield, Mark Jacobs and Ken Kokrda, NTC Publishing group, Lincolnwood, Illinois, 1997.

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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- Auditory re-phrasing to assist students.
- Examples of successful projects to model.
- Group critique of work.
- Hands on activities to support unit objectives.
- Individualized instruction where needed.
- Mini lessons in addition to large group instruction.
- Use of document camera and projector.
- Use of handout as guideline for working procedure.
- Use of Visual Aids such as photographs, and presentation tools.
- Videos to enhance instruction.
- Working in small groups.
- Written outline of procedure as guideline.