

Paintertainment

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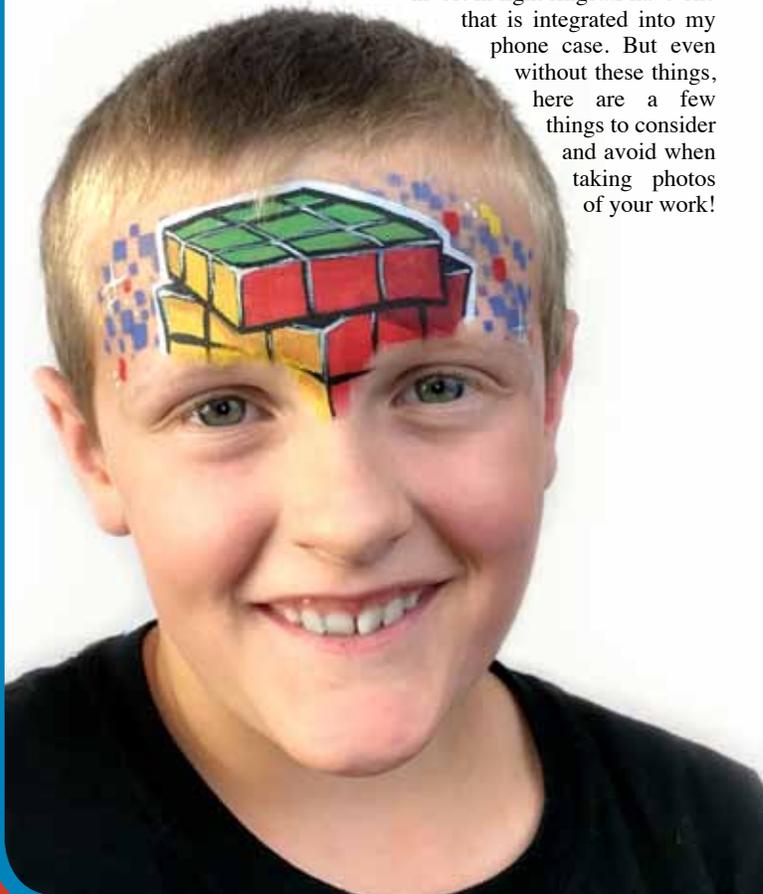
CAPTURING
GOOD

PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR WORK!

by Gretchen Fleener

When the work you do is designed to be washed off before bedtime, capturing good, clear photos is a must! Whether you plan to create a design menu board, a website, or other printed promotional materials, having a good collection of clear, professional looking photos that makes your work shine is essential. There is nothing sadder than spending hours on an amazing body painting, only to find later that all the photos you took of it are unusable!

Nowadays smartphones can take incredible photos, and there are some great and inexpensive point & shoot cameras out there, so there really is no excuse not to get good photos. Photos are all we really have to show for our work at the end of the day! Every photo in the books that I currently have published was even taken on my phone! While you may not be a Photoshop expert to touch things up after the fact, there are still a lot of things you can do that don't require any special equipment or know-how to improve your photos. And if you're willing to spend a little money, there are some really affordable options for photo backdrops and lighting these days! Some artists invest in light rings...I have one that is integrated into my phone case. But even without these things, here are a few things to consider and avoid when taking photos of your work!



What to Avoid When Taking Photos:

Background Distractions

Let your work steal the show, not what's going on in the background of your photo! Any clean, solid colored background will do wonders for your photos. Of course, this is tougher to achieve when on the job, but in a pinch can be done after the fact via Photoshop or any one of the apps available to separate photo subjects from their background!



Colored Canopies

If you're shopping for a canopy or umbrella for your events, white is the best way to go if you are hoping to get good photos of your work. The photo at the left was taken under a red umbrella, throwing off the color of the design and making the subject appear sunburned!



Squinty Faces

Make sure your light source isn't blinding your subject! I always require shade when painting outdoors, simply for the fact that direct sun is not good for my paints and squinty faces do not make great canvases. But, it's just as important to capture good photos.



Blurry Photos

Nothing ruins a great photo like a bad focus! You can have everything going for you in your photo but still miss the point if it's blurry. To avoid blurry photos, make sure to squeeze your camera & shutter, not just push the button down...equal pressure on top & bottom helps prevent you from moving it while taking the pic. Brace your arms on something too, if you don't have a tripod, and make sure you have adequate lighting.



Silhouettes

Taking a photo in front of a window may sound like a good idea, but unless you use a flash (which never looks as good as natural light), you'll be left with a silhouette. Turn your subject around so the light source is pointing towards them, or put them against a neutral wall.



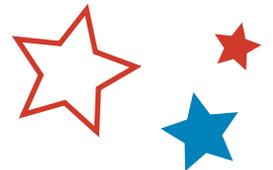
What's News?



On the Blog
Check out our blog for a roundup of 4th of July inspired designs!



UNCLE SAM HAT



NEW in the Shop
Princeton brushes, new stencils, pixie paints & wands, henna & makeup products are just a few of the new items we've recently added!



Wet Paint Magazine
The fall issue is coming August 1st! There's still time to submit your work. Visit WetPaintMagazine.com for details!

June Coupon Code!
10% off
Enter code **PROPHOTO** at checkout. Shopping cart must total \$25 or more before shipping and taxes. Offer expires 7/31/18.