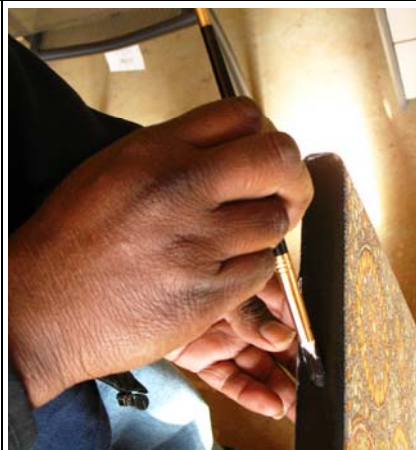


Studio: Quality Control. Present your work well for display, exhibition and sale.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



Display



Paint stretched edges



Background paint colours



Fixative or Varnish



Frame or mount



Box Packaging

SAFETY: How to stay safe

- Do not breathe the fumes from the varnish or fixative.
- Do not get paint on your face, especially not your eyes or mouth.
- Do not lift heavy loads without help.
- Wear protective footwear.

Quality Control

Check List

The list will remind you of the things you need to do before you pack up your artwork to send it away, take it to a gallery or display it in a shop.

Remember to recycle packaging whenever you can.

	Canvas	Paper	Sculpture	Artefact
Name / Signature	Back or front	Front	Underneath	Either or not at all
From Art Centre Catalogue	Write Code	Write Code	Mark with Code	
Edges	Paint	Clean border	Paint or clean	Paint or clean
Base / Stand			Paint / Clean	Paint / Clean
Frame / Packaging		Clean glass / Clean packaging	Plenty of clean packaging around sculpture	Clean glass / Clear packaging
Tag or Label	Code, Artist, Art Centre, Price	Attach to outside of packaging, folio, or print on separate paper	Code, Artist, Art Centre, Price	Artist Name, Description of artefact
Date	Back	Front	Underneath	
Loose ends	Trim off threads from the edge	Make paper tear straight	Tidy threads and edges up. Tie ends off	

Quality Control

Quality control is an important job. Each artist should make sure their work is finished, ready to sell. In the art centre, the final job of checking the quality is often shared by two or three artists and may be the manager too.

Their job is to make sure the artwork looks really good and that it represents what the person buying the work is paying for.

The art and craft work all needs to be finished off. How you package or display the work, the design of the label, whether you write the price on the label – these are all choices you make about your art centre marketing.

Edges and finish

Most art centres will paint the edges of the canvas. The part to paint is the part which stretches around the side and to the back of the stretcher bars. It is the sides you see showing on the wall where the painting hangs.

It is a good idea to paint the background colour onto edges to make a good clean edge when it is stretched.

With unstretched canvas this background colour is important as it makes a border for the edge of the painting.

Tears

Be very careful that a canvas has no holes or tears. Especially in the corners where the stretcher pulls tight and where the canvas rubs on the floor or table when you are making it.

If you notice that the canvas has a hole, or that the corner is rubbed thin, it will need to be mended. Sometimes the canvas can be made smaller by putting it on a smaller stretcher, although this is not ideal.

If it is a a tear from the back of the canvas but the front is not too damaged, you can put a small canvas patch onto the back.

- Use gesso mixed with strong craft glue like Aquadhere.
- Put wax paper on the front of the canvas where the hole is.
- Lie the canvas face down on the table.
- Carefully paint some gesso and glue mix onto the back of the canvas around the hole.
- Gently press a small patch of canvas, just bigger than the hole, onto the gesso and glue.
- Clean away any excess gesso and glue.
- Place a weight over the patch – not too heavy - and leave to dry.

To make sure the weight will not stick to the glued area, you can use another piece of waxed paper.

You may need to repair the paintwork on the front of the canvas and you should make sure the work is sold with a note to say it is damaged.

Cracks

Cracks can appear in paintings if the paint surface isn't flexible enough to be rolled, stretched or unstretched. This is one reason why artists use good quality paint.

Unless the painting is folded and creased deliberately, there is usually a reason for cracks to appear.

- The wrong gesso? Use acrylic gesso for acrylic paint, and oil gesso for oil and enamel paint.
- Mixing paint types? Putting layers of oil or enamel paint over acrylic paint can cause cracks or flakes to fall away.
- Oil or other stain on the canvas? If the canvas is dirtied by something oily, the acrylic paint will have trouble sticking.
- Dirt, sand, sticks etc in the paint? If the paint has too much added to it, then it will become too dry and unstable. The paint might crack or fall off the canvas.
- Scratches? A knife or blade will scratch layers off and damage the art work.
- Cheap acrylic can become too chalky and dry. It can crack and fade.

Objects

If your objects are painted, then the same kinds of problems might occur. You must keep oily things away from your paint surface, not mix in too much sand, dirt etc, not scratch or mark the painted surface.

You should always make sure that wood or natural fibre is really dry before the acrylic paint sits on it because if the surface changes – like shrinking as it gets dry – that movement can damage the paint surface.

If your objects are carved or burnt, you need to use wood which is not going to crack when it dries. Treating wood with linseed oil, wood varnish or beeswax can protect it from drying and cracking. Good desert wood doesn't usually crack.

If your objects are woven from grass, raffia and other materials, you don't need to worry about them drying. If you use the right kinds of grass they will not get too brittle or break when they are dry as they are flexible enough to bend around the shape you make when you use them.

If you are weaving, you need to keep oil, paint, or glue away from your grass.

Finished Surfaces

Paintings on canvas need no sealant, varnish or glass on them. Some people do put paintings behind glass. That is a choice for protection.

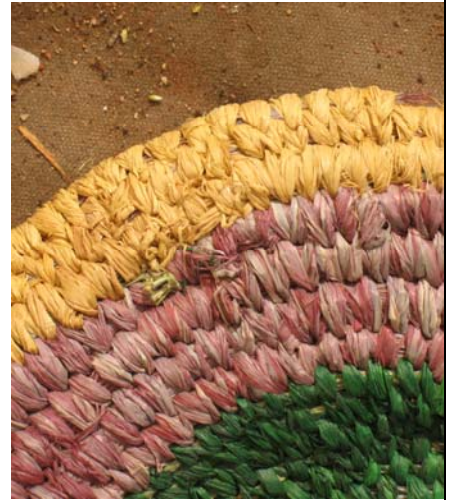
Prints need no varnish or sealant but they are framed behind glass when they are displayed.

Drawings, ochres, pastels, charcoal etc. These must be sealed with a spray on varnish or the colours will rub off onto anything which touches them. This is called 'fixing' the art work. Use a proper artist fixative – hair spray is not good quality for lasting a long time.

Objects may need a coat of varnish or wax to seal them if they are painted. Many are painted with acrylics and coating them with varnish to seal them can protect the paint. Especially things like furniture or other object which will be used.

TIPS: Edges

Tjanpi weaving can be finished off so that there are not any loose bits of grass or uneven edges left.



Paintings may have a border painted around them or the edge of the stretcher.

