

iPhone + Snapseed: Photographing Artwork (Reflection-Free)

What You Need:

- iPhone (any model with decent camera newer = better)
- Artwork (flat, ideally unframed)
- A wall or floor with indirect natural light
- Optional: White foam boards or sheets (for light control)
- Snapseed app (free on App Store)

1. Set Up the Lighting

- Best: Indirect natural daylight near a window.
- Avoid direct sunlight and overhead lights they cause glare.
- Place the artwork on a vertical wall or horizontal surface.
- Face the artwork straight on to avoid perspective distortion.

Tip: Use white boards (or paper) on each side of the artwork to evenly reflect soft light.

2. Avoid Reflections

- Turn off your room lights (especially ceiling lights).
- Stand slightly off-center to avoid your own reflection.
- Use polarized sunglasses in front of your lens as a DIY polarizer if needed.
- Tilt the artwork slightly forward if shooting on a wall this reflects the light down.

3. Use iPhone Camera Settings

- Open the native iPhone Camera app.
- Turn off flash.
- Tap the artwork to focus, then swipe up or down to manually adjust exposure.

- Use the square aspect ratio if posting online, or 4:3 for full frame.
- Hold the phone parallel to the artwork.

Tip: Use a tripod or lean against a wall to stay stable.

4. Take the Photo

- Take several shots from slightly different angles and distances.
- Check for edge distortion and reflections immediately.

5. Edit in Snapseed

Open Snapseed and follow these steps:

Basic Cleanup

- Open Image > Tools > Crop: Straighten edges and crop cleanly.
- Tools > Perspective: Use this to correct skewed edges.
- Tools > Tune Image: Adjust:
 - Brightness: +5 to +20
 - Contrast: +5 to +10 (lightly)
 - Saturation: -5 to 0 (avoid boosting)
 - Ambiance: +10 to +30 (helps balance light)
- Tools > Details: Sharpen slightly if needed.

Advanced Fixes

- Tools > Healing: Tap to remove dust, marks, or lens glare.
- Tools > Selective: Tap small areas (e.g., corners) to correct light unevenness.
- Tools > Brush > Exposure: Lighten dark spots manually (set to +0.3 or +0.7).

6. Export Your Final Image

- Tap Export > Save a Copy to preserve your original.
- Choose max resolution.

Summary: Key Tips to Avoid Reflections

Problem	Fix
Glare	Use indirect natural light
Reflected body/phone	Shoot slightly off-center
Uneven light	Use reflectors or white boards
Distorted edges	Use Snapseed's Perspective tool