

Light the Artwork

notes

Three's Best

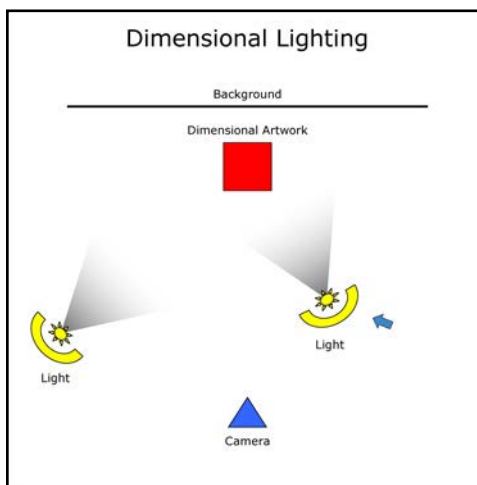
With dimensional artwork, we have to modify the two-light setup you saw earlier and add a third light—because three's best.

Dimensional Artwork

First, place the artwork on a table or other surface. Use a suitable background under and behind the piece. Then set up two lights as I showed earlier for flat artwork.

Now I'm going to have you change the lighting setup. Move one of the lights closer to the center of the artwork relative to the other light. This will make the light uneven.

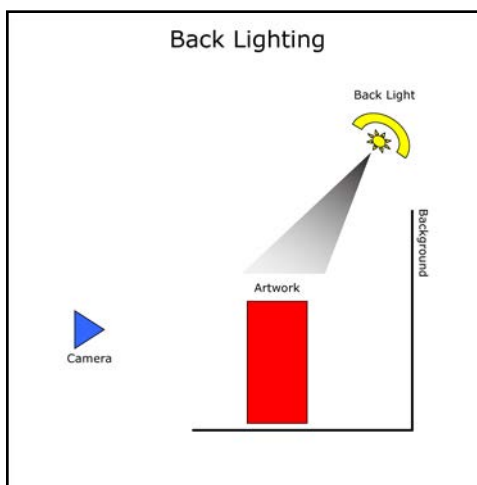
That's right...with dimensional art, we want the lighting to be uneven because that better reveals the form and surface texture of the work. This lighting arrangement is ideal for sculpture and jewelry. It also works well for fiber art or wall art with surface texture or depth.



Back Lighting

Now we'll add the third light. Here's a side view of the setup. Position the light above and behind the art to illuminate it from the back.

The top and side edges of the work are lit, which creates a "rim of light" where it meets the background. This visually separates it from the background and makes the art stand out. The added light also softens the shadows behind the piece that are created by the front lights, evening out the light and shadows on the background.



Have you tried using two lights at different distances? Yes No
 If yes, was the lighting better? Yes No Why? _____

Have you tried using a back light to photograph your art? Yes No
 If yes, was the lighting better? Yes No Why? _____