

Safety Guidelines for Television and Video Filming & Photography

A Registration or Conservation staff member is required to supervise all filming or photography due to copyright restrictions and risk of damage to the artworks.

MECHANICAL DAMAGE

• Art as displayed in the gallery environment is usually a fragile thing. It is very easy to scratch or puncture a painting or disrupt or damage floor displays, sculpture or cases. Common sense should prevail, as a rule the following guides apply:

- Never walk backwards carrying equipment either during set up or filming. Be aware of the position of the art at all times, if needed use a spotter.
- Stands, booms, umbrellas etc should always be placed so that if they fell **in any direction** they would not come into contact with an art work.
- At no time, should make-up, aerosols, etc. (for actors, models) be applied in the gallery
- Under no circumstance will food or drink be permitted in the gallery during filming

LIGHT EXPOSURE

Most art works are susceptible to light damage producing colour changes and fading as well as accelerating chemical deterioration. The heat produced by light sources, especially high powered television and video lights is the biggest problem and will be dealt with in the next section.

- **Flashbulbs or flash equipment may never be used.**
- Lights may be used with prior approval from the appropriate Conservation Departments. Additional supervision by conservation and curatorial staff may be required to monitor temperature, relative humidity and light levels during filming. If use of lights are approved, lights may not be too close or intense.
- Wherever possible, use available light. When additional lighting is necessary to illuminate light-sensitive objects, please limit this to the shortest possible time. Lights should be turned on only when actual filming is taking place and should be turned off at all other times.

HEAT

As mentioned it is the heat produced by television and other strong filming / photography lights that can cause the most damage. The tungsten or quartz halogen lights used in filming lights are very high energy and generate a lot of heat. The components of paintings, photographs, sculpture etc often respond at different rates to heating producing physical stresses as well as chemical change that can result in buckling, softening of plastics, loss of pigments as well as scorching and other more obvious signs of damage. There have been many instances reported of exposure of quite short duration close to a work , ie. less than 2m, producing this type of damage.

- Screens must be used on tungsten, incandescent spot, or flood lights to control heat and protect objects from flying glass as a result of exploding bulbs. UV filters must be used when possible.
- Lights should be arranged that the temperature rise at the surface of the work is no more than the permitted fluctuation for that type of material. ie. 2 degrees Centigrade for paintings and most gallery material. This can be measured by Conservation at the start of a shoot and that distance set as the closest permissible distance.
- As a general rule have lights on for the shortest possible amount of time. Never leave them on while setting up etc. Please try and make takes as short as possible.