

# WHAT MAKES A GREAT REFERENCE PHOTO?

six simple tips  
for taking photos  
to use as references for  
high-quality art commissions



# THE SUBJECT

The subject of your picture is whatever you want to focus on - it could be a loved one, a pet, a group, or even just a little flower. Whatever your subject, there are a couple of important things to remember:



Is your subject in focus, with no part of it blurry?

Is there anything blocking your subject? It is possible to edit out elements you don't want in your final piece, however this becomes complicated if it obstructs part of your subject.

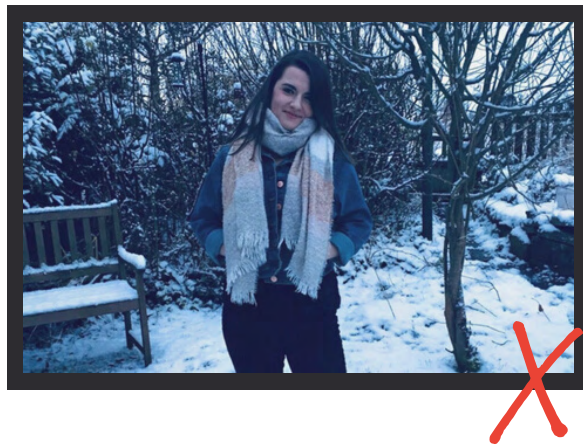


# THE BACKGROUND

The background of your piece should complement your subject, making the piece whole and complete. Here are a few tips to avoid your background stealing the limelight:



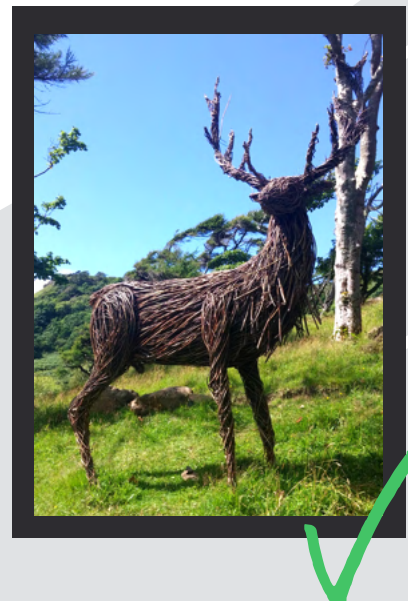
Is your background super busy? This can make the piece look complicated with too much going on.



Can you tell the subject apart from the background?

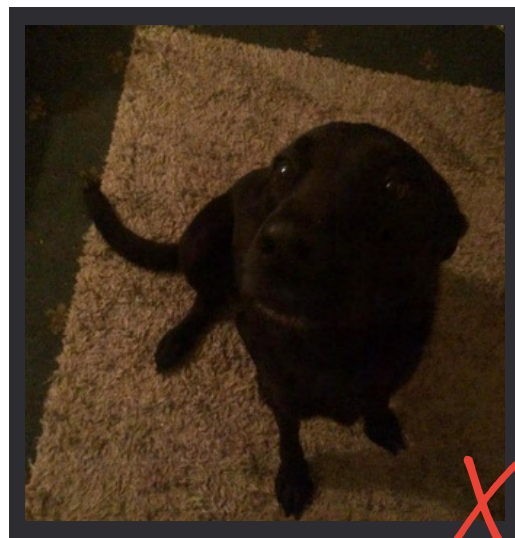
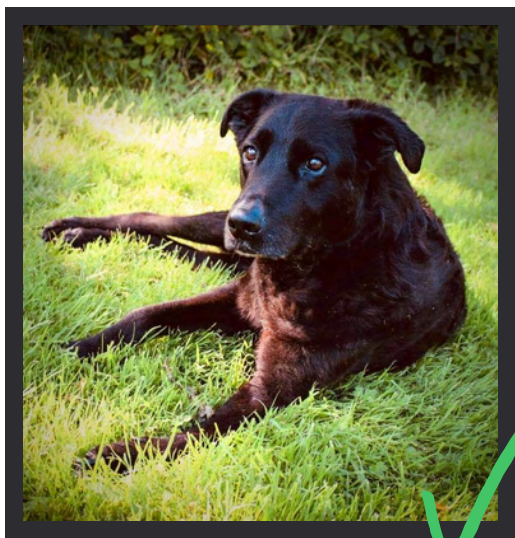


It's possible to edit out the background from your final piece if this is your preference, and a clear subject makes this much more effective.

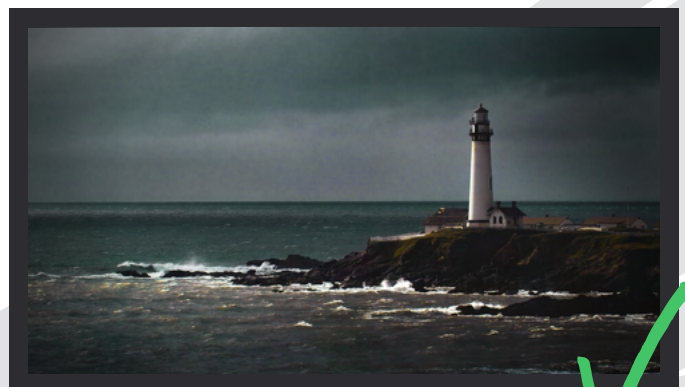
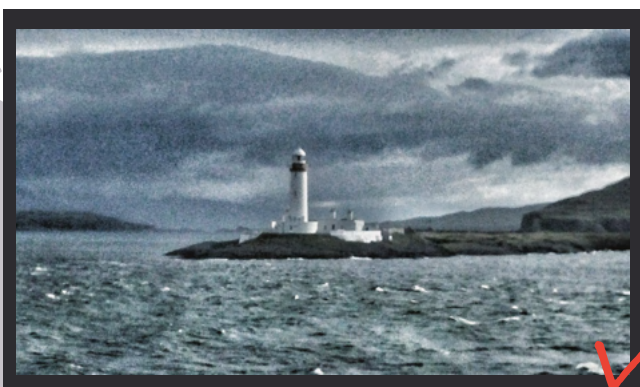


# THE QUALITY

This refers to the overall photo - the colours, the lighting, the size - which all contribute to making a great reference or a poor one. See the difference?



Has the picture been taken in good lighting?  
Daylight or a well-lit room works best for bringing out the vibrancy in most photos.



Is it a high-definition photo? When you zoom in, does your photo become pixilated very quickly?

# P.S.

These tips are based on my own experience as an artist using photos as references for paintings and drawings. They're intended to help people who are not that experienced in taking photos to snap the best possible shot for their personalised piece.

These tips only scratch the surface of the endless possibilities that the art of photography provides, and so they're not intended for teaching readers how to take photos or become better at photography. There are plenty of expert photographers out there who do that!

However, if you do follow these little tips, you will find yourself with a high-quality reference photo, one that will be perfect for the creation of your bespoke piece of art which will last you a lifetime!

Head over to [emmasartwork.co.uk](https://emmasartwork.co.uk) to get a free quote for your very own custom-made piece. If you have any questions or want to get in touch, feel free to email [emma@emmasartwork.co.uk](mailto:emma@emmasartwork.co.uk). I'd love to hear from you!

All the best!



Emma Hindle





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