



Conservation - How to Preserve Your Pencil Portrait

I sincerely thank you for commissioning a pencil drawing and hope that you love it as much as I loved drawing it! To assure that your piece always looks as good as it does today, please have it professionally framed as soon as possible. A good framer should be able to advise you on a mat choice that will complement your artwork and go well with your frame.

Here are some rules to follow:

- **DO** use a mat when framing to separate the drawing from the glass. A mat is a thick piece of custom cut artboard that creates a border around your piece. It is both aesthetically pleasing and helpful in conserving drawings over time by providing a space in between the glass and the artwork. This prevents the graphite from being rubbed by the glass as well as the formation of condensation in the framed piece. Please do not allow the glass to sit directly on top of the drawing.
- **DO** buy an acid-free mat if you can. All my drawings are supplied on premium, 100% cotton, acid-free paper. If you are buying a store-bought frame, please make sure that the mat is acid free.
- **DON'T** touch a drawing with your hands more than absolutely necessary as the oils in your skin can damage it. Wash your hands before handling a drawing even if you think they are clean – it is very easy to leave grease spots! I spray pencil drawings with a workable fixative once they are finished to help prevent smudging, and then wrap them in a paper envelope so you can keep them protected right up until they are ready to go in their frame.
- **DON'T** hang a drawing in direct sunlight as this may cause the paper to warp or fade. Never hang it over a source of heat like a radiator or fireplace.
- **DON'T** hang a pencil portrait on a damp or newly plastered wall.

Thank you for your business!