



## Instructions for Photographing Panels

**VISIONQUILT**

visionquilt@gmail.com  
www.visionquilt.org

### Tools and materials:

Camera  
Tripod  
Carpenter's level  
Blotter paper or other heavy white paper  
White artist's tape

### Instructions:

1. When possible, use two people to photograph Vision Quilt panels.
2. Shoot in a situation with even diffused light sources such as photo floods or multiple fluorescent lights. Block all other light from the room, including light from windows. Do not use 2 different kinds of light sources, such as daylight and fluorescent, or fluorescent and incandescent lights. If using LED lights, photo floods or other incandescent lights, use 2 lights of equal wattage, placed so that the center of each beam of light crosses the center of the panel.
3. Tape or pin white paper to the wall, using the level to insure that it is straight.
4. Mount the camera vertically to the tripod and set the tripod so that the camera back is parallel to the wall. The camera should be far enough away that you can see the edges of the paper in the viewing screen when zoomed at 2.3. Check that the camera is level both vertically and horizontally. Check on the camera's viewing screen that the white paper looks level and that all 4 of its edges look square to the edges of the viewing screen. Correct camera position if necessary.
5. Tape a panel to the paper using small rolls of artist's tape under each corner. One person can hold the panel and adjust it while the other looks through the camera and helps to direct until it is straight. As much as possible, try to get the panel centered in the camera's view. Note that some panels are warped and/or cut crooked. Level them as best you can, but they will not necessarily be perfect. Panel sizes may also not be uniform.
6. Set the camera on RAW (under image quality in the menu), auto white balance, and auto exposure. Zoom should be at 2.3 or the middle of the range (not wide angle or extreme telephoto). If your camera does not have a RAW setting, use the largest JPEG setting and/or the highest resolution setting available.
7. Keep the camera and tripod position the same as you photograph multiple panels. Hang both vertical and horizontal panels vertically so you will not have to change the camera position.