COMMON METAL ART PHOTO ISSUES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Common Issues	Why it Matters	Solution
Photos edges are cropped too close to the item	Images with more blank space around the item have better chance to be used for press so press can crop to needed size and/or to fit in with other photos from other artists when a uniform photo shape is needed	Take a photo w/ more 'blank' space around the piece
Background is in focus instead of the piece being in focus	Textured backgrounds lead the viewer's eye off the art piece	Elevate the piece off the background with spacers so the focus will be on the piece and not the background (or both) When taking a phone photo: click on the art piece on the screen to force focus OR use the camera app "portrait" mode and clicking on the item
Background has a prominent seam or two….	Prominent seams on backgrounds lead the viewer's eye off the piece	Use a seamless background and make sure the item is not up against the background
Background and/or piece has dust spots scattered about	The dust spots reflect light and lead the viewer's eye off the piece	Use a can of air or a manual air blower during setup; this is a pain and requires vigilance. Lighter colored backgrounds have less of an issue but are not always practical for the piece to stand out.
More than one color of light source has been used to light the piece and/or background	Different colors around the background draw the eye off the piece	Change the lightbulbs in all lighting to the same light color (in Kelvin; e.g. 5500K) and do not use fluorescent lights
Background is off color when shot on white; and all the images from one artist end up with a different background color	Background color differences are distracting when more than one image from the same artist is used for press or websites	White backgrounds turn gray unless very well lit and this can be the hardest problem to overcome when taking photos on a white background. George Post has the same problem; he lights the background brightly and finishes resolving the issue in post/editing if there is a color cast issue.