

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands using a pencil to mark a wooden frame. The person is wearing a red and blue wristband. The background is a light-colored surface.

## REMOVING THE FRAME

In order to be examined and photographed all artworks must be removed from their frames.

The reasons for this are numerous. Here are some of them.

- If the artwork is behind glass it cannot be sharply photographed from behind glass
- If the artwork is a work on paper we need to measure exactly its dimensions. The purpose is to see if other similar artworks by the artist have exactly the same dimensions, because they came from the same pad or were cut at the same time.
- If the artwork is a painting we need to see if it has been lined and the area where this can best be seen is the rabbet, which is tucked inside the most remote corner of the frame.
- If there is a possibility the artwork is a fragment, that it was cut from a larger composition, or that it was cut out of the frame, the way to determine this is to look at the tacking edges which are hidden inside the frame.
- If we want to examine the tacking edges to determine if a painting has been restretched.
- If we want to see the tacks to determine their age.
- In the case of works on paper we need to see and photograph the blind stamps and watermarks and it can only be done if the work is free of the frame.

These are some of the reasons why framed art must always be unframed for examination and photography.