

RESIZING IMAGES

Why Resize?

Digital photos are made up of pixels—small “pieces” of information, which – together—produce the complete picture. Imagine a rectangle consisting of a series of tiny blocks or “tiles”—laid side by side...row by row. Like in a jigsaw puzzle—each tile contains a tiny piece of the complete image. In digital photography the more of these tiles(pixels) are used to produce the image—the higher the quality of the image.

A modern digital camera may produce an image that consists of, say 12-million pixels. This would be called a 12-megapixel camera—producing a rectangular image that is 4000-pixels wide by 3000-pixels high. Storing this image on your computer might require a file that is about 3 megabytes (3 “million bytes” or MB) in size—too large to send by e-mail or to upload to many websites.

How to Resize

Resizing a digital photograph means, essentially, “forcing” the original image into fewer pixels. Through a process called “re-sampling” – each pixel is made to represent a larger portion of the whole image—resulting in fewer pixels (and a smaller file size). Image quality is reduced... but the trade-off is a digital image file that is more manageable—while still being useable for many for many purposes. Photo editing software such as **Adobe Photoshop** can handle “resizing” easily...but there are also many inexpensive (and even Free) programs that can perform this task with just a few steps.

PICASA

This is a image-management program from Google which produces a handy “catalog” of all the images on your computer and offers basic image-editing features. If you don’t already have Picasa on your computer, see instructions for **DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING PICASA.**

To resize an image:

1. With Picasa open and the “catalog” viewable on your desktop, CLICK to select the image you want to resize.

2. Under FILE, choose EXPORT PICTURE TO FOLDER which will bring up the EXPORT TO FOLDER window.
3. Indicate where you want to save your new photo by selecting BROWSE and then clicking the correct folder (you can even create a new location by clicking MAKE NEW FOLDER at the bottom of the BROWSE window). This will take you back to the EXPORT TO FOLDER window. **HINT:** make a note of the folder shown in the EXPORT LOCATION box—so you can find it later.
4. Next to IMAGE SIZE, click RESIZE TO and actually type the new pixel size in the box. For the WAA Spring Show – type “2400” (do not use the slider).
5. UNDER image quality, select MAXIMUM.
6. Click EXPORT to convert the image and save it in your selected folder. This is the file you’ll use to upload your artwork to the WAA website for entry in the Spring Show.

Checking to make sure your file will upload:

1. Navigate to the folder where you just saved your “resized” image.
2. Open the folder and make sure the image SIZE is less than 2MB (megabyte). If you can’t find the image SIZE, be sure you are NOT browsing in the ICON mode (change the folder viewing option to LIST or DETAILS). **HINT:** your image may show up as “2,000K” – which is the SAME as 2MB.

If your image file is LARGER THAN 2MB – go back to step 4 above, and change the IMAGE QUALITY option to NORMAL or AUTOMATIC... then recheck the size again.

(If you try to upload a file larger than 2MB to the Spring Show online registration system – you’ll receive an error message).