

Photographing Art

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These discussion notes provide information about photographing art, improving images digitally, and sizing the images for the LAA Web Gallery. They provide information about the photographic equipment, software, skills and knowledge that are needed.

The notes are divided into three parts:

Part A: Taking the Photo

Part B: Improving the Image

Part C: Resizing the Image

In reviewing this information consider:

- A. What photographic equipment/software you have? *What you Need?*
- B. What photographic skills/knowledge you have? *What you Need?*
- C. Finally: Do you have the inclination, time, and motivation to photograph your art?

Part C. Resizing the Image: Making Digital Adjustments and Resizing

Take the improved image and adjust it to the size you need

The resizing directions are specifically tailored for creating the 450 pixel image for the Landings Art Association Web Gallery. Additionally, guidance for cropping a 125 pixel square thumbnail image from the LAA Gallery is included.

The resizing information should be sufficient for you to be able to resize to any other dimensions. Keep in mind that resizing merely changes the size, making the image larger or smaller without altering the content or shape of the image. Cropping changes the content of the image by eliminating portions and may or may not change the proportions of the image.

The next page shows the beginning and ending Image from the digital adjustment made in Part B: Improving the Image. The ending image will be resized and cropped in Part C.



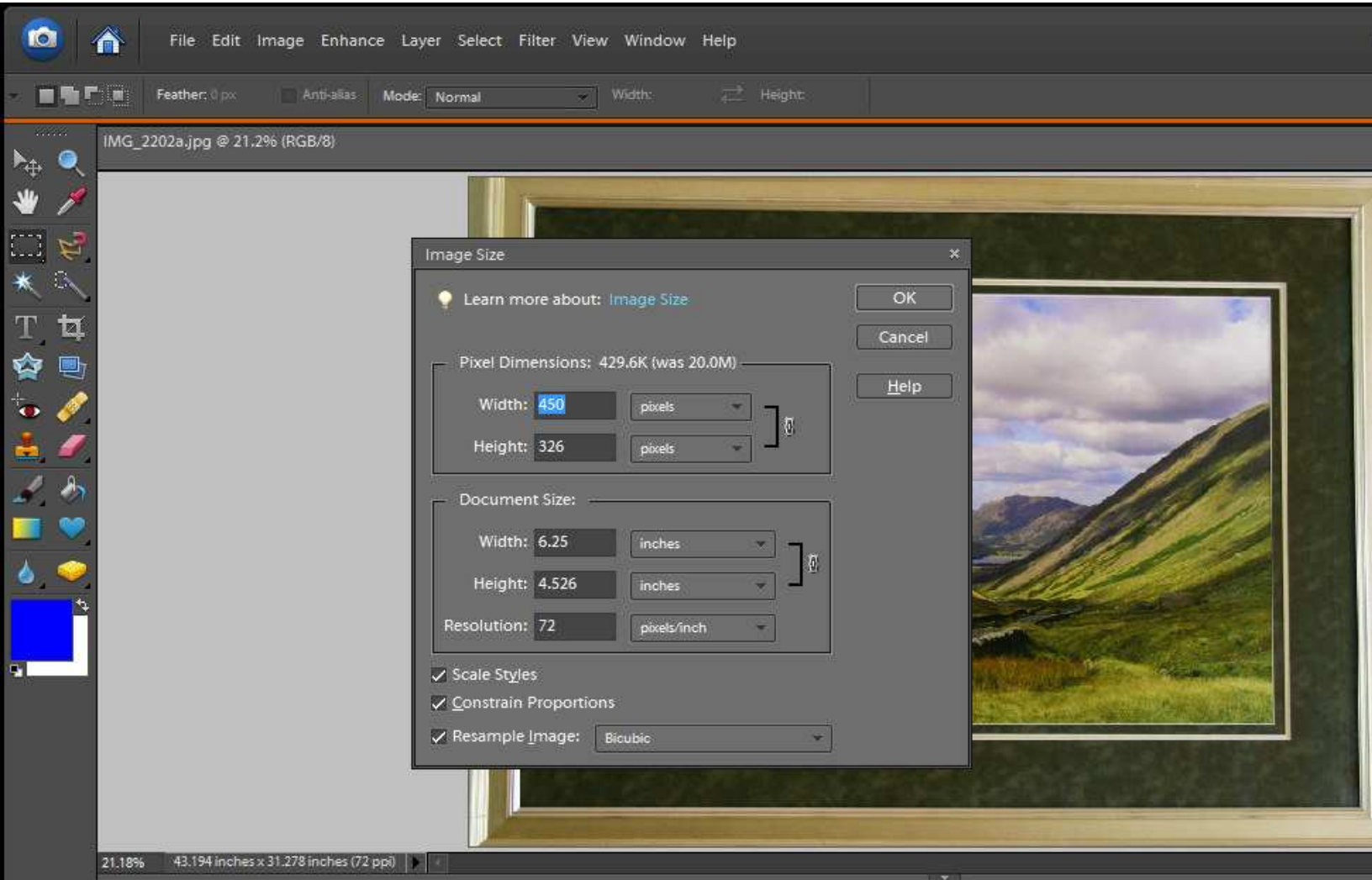
2202
BEFORE



2202a
AFTER □

Sizing the Image Image – Image Size

Under **Image** menu – select **Image Size** then click unchecked boxes at bottom of the dialog box



Make sure all three bottom boxes are checked and the upper two boxes in the Pixel Dimensions are active. Using Bicubic Resampling the computer employs complex algorithms to add or subtract pixels to achieve the best result. This provides the best reproductions of your image when resizing.

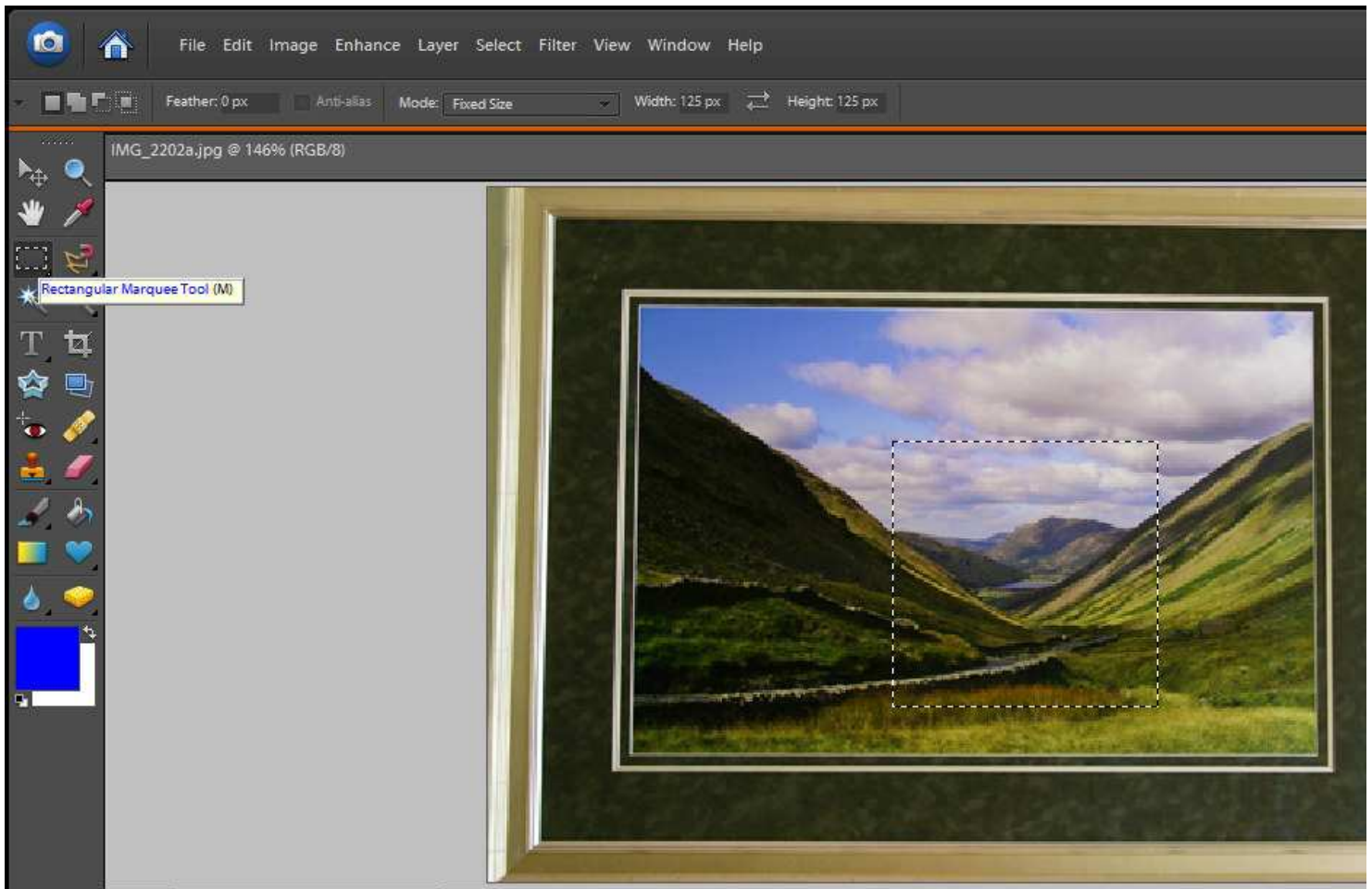
For the LAA Gallery image, make sure you have 72 ppi resolution and 450 pixels in top Pixel Dimensions, W or D whichever longest – in this case width is the largest dimension and is set at 450. (If you enter 96 ppi resolution, as allowed by LAA, you will change your image size as it appears on viewers screens from 6.25" to 5" with no gain in resolution since most viewer monitors are limited to 72 ppi.)

Click OK and you have your Gallery image, then **File** menu "**Save As**" add LAA or something else to let you know this is your Gallery image.

NOTE: If you are asked to provide a 300 DPI file for printing, change the bottom ppi to 300. This will immediately adjust the H/W dimensions downward to about 25% of their previous size, if the size is OK click OK and then "Save As."

If you need a larger image size, set the larger dimension, H or W, the program will proportionally adjust the other dimension, click OK and the program will add pixels to enlarge your image to the required size.

Select **Rectangle Marquee Tool** in the tool bar on the left side. Then on the Tool Control Bar just under the Menu Bar at the top Select MODE: “Fixed Size” and Width: **125px** Height: **125px**



Now you can freely move the selection box in image as desired to select your thumbnail. When you are satisfied Go to Image menu and select Crop

Then **File** – “**Save As**” add –TN for thumbnail to the existing string of 2202aLAA

2202aLAA-TN



This is the method suggested in the LAA handout and I tend to prefer it for such small thumbnails. However for abstract art and other special circumstances another method might be better.

Alternative to provide the maximum size square thumbnail:

- 1.) setting the above mode to “Proportional” instead of Fixed, then select a big square out of your image.
- 2.) Then go back to the step before where we made the 450px gallery image, and use that process but insert 125 Pixels – then ‘Save As’ –TN and you have created a square 125 pixel

thumbnail containing most of your artwork.

Summary –

START WITH A GOOD, or at least adequate, IMAGE –

- Steady camera,
- Good light,
- Experiment w/camera settings,
- Multiple shots

MAKE IT BETTER –

- Touch up the light,
 - Adjust color and sharpness – then
 - Size the image for various needs
- Use “Save As”**

RE-SIZING

- Resizing is actually the least demanding of the three tasks.
- Resizing is a little more technical in that it requires precise outcomes and is not a matter of artistic judgment.
- A good feature about being in Photoshop or Elements is there are many good books available on the programs if the explanation here is not sufficient.

Keep the Original Image Unaltered

Photographing Art -- Part A. Taking the Photo
Photographing Art -- Part B. Improving the Image
Photographing Art – Part C. Resizing the Image

Are available at the Landings Art Association website, <http://www.landingsart.org/links.php>