

FEATURES THAT DISTINGUISH MODERN MINIATURES FROM
SMALL WORKS OF ART

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MINIATURES

Creating “in the little” employs exacting craftsmanship using fine lines/brush strokes, and stippling or hatching. Transparent glazes can capture light and create the delicate, luminous quality of a multilayered painting.

Tightly rendered with fine detail, good composition, perspective and color balance.

The picture is further appreciated when enlarged with a magnifying glass, revealing detailed rendering and technique.

For paintings, support should be as smooth as possible. The artist aims for a smooth and even application of color or medium, thus nothing detracts from the detail.

Generally, subjects do not exceed 1/6 actual size.*

Human portrait head size no larger than 1 ½ inches

Painting surface no larger than 25 square inches.

Framing should be in proportion to the picture, creating a piece that is easily hand-held.

SMALL WORKS OF ART

Any application of medium and technique.

Can be loose, hazy and impressionistic.

Not visually enlarged since fine detail is not mandatory. Magnification may in fact reveal flaws.

A palette knife may be used. Diverse supports are employed, as are methods of creating a raised surface.

No restrictions on scale of subject.

Any size.

Almost any size that is smaller than the artist’s usual work.

Any framing size.

*For example, the average size of the human head is 9 inches. At one sixth actual size, the head would be 9/6 inches = 1 ½ inches. Subjects too small to portray at one sixth scale may still meet the spirit of a miniature if the work meets the other criteria for a miniature.