



Caring for Your Oil Painting

A simple guide to ensure your painting lasts for generations

Oil paintings are remarkably durable when cared for properly. Many paintings created hundreds of years ago still exist today because they were protected from unnecessary damage.

With a few simple precautions, your painting can remain a beautiful part of your home for generations.

1. Choose the Right Location

Where you place your painting plays the biggest role in how well it ages.

Avoid hanging your painting:

- In direct sunlight
- Near fireplaces or heaters
- In bathrooms or very humid rooms
- In kitchens where grease and steam accumulate

Sunlight can slowly fade colours, while heat and humidity can cause the canvas and paint layers to expand and contract.

The ideal place is a stable indoor environment with indirect natural light.

2. Avoid Smoke and Airborne Particles

Smoke, dust, and cooking oils can settle on the surface of a painting over time.

To preserve the clarity of the colours:

- Avoid hanging paintings in smoking areas
- Keep them away from open fireplaces or braais
- Try not to place them directly above cooking areas

Airborne particles can slowly form a film on the surface that dulls the painting.



Christel Fischer | Equine Oil Artist

visit my website: www.fischerartist.co.za

email: christel@fischerartist.co.za

whats app: +27 82 556 7120

A commissioned painting is more than decoration.

It becomes part of a home – a reminder of a horse, a place, or a chapter of life that mattered deeply. With proper care, your painting may one day hang on a wall where future generations pause to look up and ask about the story behind it.



4. Cleaning Your Painting

Oil paintings require very gentle care.

For routine cleaning:

- Use a soft, dry cloth or feather duster
- Lightly remove surface dust
- Never scrub the surface

Avoid:

- Water
- Cleaning sprays
- Chemicals or soap

If a painting becomes heavily soiled after many years, it is best cleaned by a professional art conservator.

6. Transporting Your Painting

If you need to move the painting:

- Wrap it in acid-free paper or a clean cloth
- Protect the corners of the frame
- Avoid stacking heavy objects on top

Proper packing helps prevent pressure damage to the canvas.

3. Protect From Moisture

Oil paintings should be kept dry and well ventilated.

Avoid:

- Water splashes
- Damp walls
- High humidity environments

Excess moisture can damage the canvas, stretcher, and paint surface over time.

5. Handle With Care

When moving your painting:

- Always hold it by the frame, not the canvas
- Avoid touching the painted surface
- Keep it upright rather than face-down

The oils on our hands can leave marks on the paint over time.

7. Long-Term Preservation

Oil paintings naturally cure and stabilize over time. With proper care they can last for centuries.

Keeping the painting in a stable environment and handling it gently will ensure that its colours and details remain vivid for many years to come.



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