

Framing Focus

Framing Older Photographs

Older photographs hold a mysterious charm. Perhaps it's the link they offer to another time and place. Perhaps it's the air of transience that surrounds them. Or maybe it's just the soft, gentle tones of brown and gray that draws us to them. Whatever the reason for the attraction, there's no denying their subtle elegance.

Almost all of us have photographs of older relatives in a scrapbook, photo album, or maybe even a shoe box. Those of us who don't can easily find some, since vintage photographs from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have become a popular collectible in antique shops and galleries.

These photographs may be slightly faded, and they may have developed frayed edges or small tears over time, but



Although the paper support of photographs like platinotypes (the example above is from the early 1930's) is fragile, the image itself resists change even under adverse conditions. This makes them ideal for framing.



The framing for this WWI-era photograph is simple yet elegant. Because many vintage photographs are small in size, collectors can opt for an upscale design that is still inexpensive.

they are still suitable for framing. In fact, the right setting can improve a photograph's appearance dramatically, making damage almost invisible. (If a favorite photograph has severe damage, there are still ways it can be displayed. A copy of the photo can be made, or it can be repaired digitally or by a conservator.)

Because of their size, which is often small, older photographs look great when framed and grouped together. Dressed up with a gold or silver moulding and a special mat design, a handful of photographs can add warmth to a dining or living room wall.

The framing designs can be as unique as the images themselves. Even photographs framed to hang as a group should reflect a little of their own individuality. So if you're building your collection slowly over time, don't worry that it might not seem uniform. That will only add to its appeal.

Framing older photographs is a great way to create a cozy, personal feel in your home, and the perfect way to help preserve those precious memories.

Get a Head Start on Spring Cleaning

When's the last time you took a good look at the framed cross-stitch sampler in the spare bedroom? Have you ever considered re-framing your limited edition print in the living room? If you're like most people, you haven't given much thought to the framed artwork in your home. And that's okay, because a well-made frame design shouldn't need constant attention.

But it would be wrong to think that once artwork is framed, it's safe forever. Framing materials and procedures are constantly improving, for one thing, and something framed ten years ago is no longer state-of-the-art. Art also changes over

time: it may fade and discolor, or it might cockle and warp. It might even be vulnerable to attacks by pests.

A close visual inspection of your art once a year will be enough to spot any potential problems. You can either bring your artwork to the frame shop, or ask us what you should look for so you can inspect each piece yourself.

It's also a good rule of thumb to re-frame artwork once every ten years. Not only does it give you the opportunity to preserve your art with the best in new materials and techniques, it's also the perfect excuse to choose new matting to match your new decor.

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