

# ART POST GALLERY

ORIGINAL ART & FINE FRAMING

## Construction Tips for Lighting Your Art

Principle: *Think about lighting your art when your walls/ceilings are open.* Build the following guidelines into your electrical plan. NOTE: Execute many of these ideas in your existing space.

- Use higher “Kelvin” rated bulbs (a measure of whiteness). The bulbs most comfortable for living are slightly yellow with Kelvin ratings of 2400 to 2800. Yellow lighting distorts the color of art. For your art, only use bulbs with about 3000 to 3500 Kelvin ratings that produce a purer white light.
- Flush-mounted ceiling lighting fixtures designed for MR-16 bulbs are the best for lighting art. They offer the following advantages:
  - They’re smaller than conventional ceiling lighting and are easily adaptable to varying situations.
  - MR-16 bulbs are available in a variety of Kelvin ratings (2400 to 4700) that produce a “cone” as narrow as 17° and as wide as 36°. The “right” cone size depends on the size of the painting being lit and the distance the light is from the painting. In a home setting, a wider cone is generally more versatile.
  - The ideal fixtures are directional, i.e. they can be swiveled to exactly target the painting being lit.
  - You can use either “line-voltage” fixtures (with a built-in transformer to convert line voltage to low voltage) or low voltage fixtures. Both will accommodate LED bulbs (see below) and will easily meet energy conservation regulations.

Note: If you already have larger can lights in your ceiling, there are replacement kits available that swivel. Larger bulbs with the specifications noted above are available for this application.

- LED bulb technology has come a long way in recent years and we now recommend using LED bulbs. We have had particularly good experience with Soraa Vivid MR16 bulbs (see attached pictures) with the following specifications:
  - 3000 to 3500 Kelvin rating (produces a whiter light);
  - 95% Color Rendering Index (CRI) (the light is nearly identical to outdoor natural light);
  - 36° cone (versatile for most home applications); and
  - 9 watts (very economical and environmentally friendly).

Note: The Soraa Vivid MR16 bulb comes with two base options: (1) the GU10 has a ridged base and is used for regular line voltage; (2) the GU5.3 has two straight prongs and is used for low-voltage fixtures.

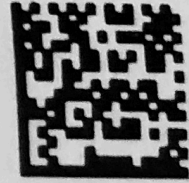
- If possible, locate ceiling fixtures at least 24" away from the wall. Further is better, within reason. Most manufacturers recommend shorter distances, but the advantage to being further away is twofold:
  - You avoid having the profile of the top rail of the frame cast a shadow on your art.
  - The further away a fixture is located from the wall, the more circular the cone casting light on a painting becomes. Given the angle created by the light being higher than painting, all cones will be somewhat elliptical in shape.
- Whenever possible, use two lights to illuminate a painting rather than just one.
  - Two lights create more intensity, allowing the natural colors in a painting to "pop."
  - Large paintings or wide paintings are often difficult to light with a single light. In some situations, three or more lights may be necessary to cover the entire width of painting(s).
- MR-16 fixtures work best in situations where maximum ceiling height is about 10'. Particularly with vaulted ceilings or when ceiling lighting is otherwise impractical, use frame-mounted picture lights. This requires installation of *recessed* duplex plugs in the wall behind the painting, in order to avoid having a chord dangling down from behind the painting. We recommend House of Troy, which has an attractive "Slimline" line of picture lights in a variety of finishes. The following guidelines apply to picture lights:
  - Match the finish of picture lights to the finish of the frame.
  - Ideally, the width of the picture light should be about two-thirds of the width of the painting.
  - House of Troy uses high Kelvin halogen tube-lights that appropriately produce white light.
  - *Never* use battery-operated lights; lighting is poor and batteries require frequent recharging.
- Think about the location and functionality of switches *in advance*.
  - All art lighting should be on a separate switch from other room lighting *and* should be on a dimmer. Dimmers create all sorts of opportunities for mood lighting and even night-lights.
  - *Never* allow your electrician to locate a light switch where it interferes with art. This also applies to HVAC contractors (thermostats & supply/return vents), home security control pads, speaker volume switches, etc.

Lighting can make or break the presentation of your art. If you think ahead and follow these guidelines, you will get it right!

**SORAA**

1928 ADNE

**VIVID MR16**



**36°FL. 9.0W 0.1A 3000K**

**GU10 120V 50/60Hz 95CRI**

**NAED): 02501**

**SM16GA-09-36D-930-03**



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**LISTED  
LED Lamp  
4LX0**

Importador:  
ENERGETIKA SUSTENTABLE Y  
ECOLOGICA SA DE CV  
Patriotismo 12 INT. 2 201, Col. Hipódromo,  
C.P.: 06100, México, D.F.,





SORAA®



LED  
MR16-GU10

GaN  
on  
GaN  
Technology



# SORAA VIVID

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SORAA VIVID MR16 - GU5.3

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

