Create a White Background with Photoshop Elements 6 to 11
(PS Elements 12 and later don't have the Magic Extractor)

NOTE – save your working image as a Photoshop image. This will save all the layers and enable you to work on the image at a later date. Save as a JPG to submit your image, file size is much smaller.

When taking photos of artwork, digital cameras always seem to make the background grey. This is a method of removing the background and replacing it with a white background.

1. Open PS Elements > Choose 'Expert' and make sure the panel on the right is present. If not, go to the menu at the top, choose Window > Reset Panels. This will give you the panel on the right.

2. Go to File, then find the image you want to work on. Save the image as a new file with a new name. This is now your working file.

3. Familiarise yourself with the different options on the left. Find Zoom (magnifying glass) click and use it to resize the image. Use Alt + Zoom to make the image smaller/zoom out. Once you feel comfortable with the options and controls, go to 4.

4. In the top menu, go to Image>Magic Extractor, click on it and a new box/screen will appear.

5. In Magic Extractor, follow the instructions.
You can Zoom in and out to get a better view.
The hand tool will let you move the image around if it's too big to see or work on all at once.

On the right, you can change the brush size
On the left, the pen images are top - Foreground tool (your image) below it - Background tool
click on the tool you want to use.

Using the foreground tool, make sure you include *all* of the image. Pay attention to any very pale areas, including edges, and any tiny bits and pieces otherwise they will disappear.
Using the background tool, make sure you select the background only.

Once you're happy with your selection, click Preview. If you aren't happy, you can click the Reset button and start again. If you're happy, click OK.

You now have an image with no background.   > Save >

Add the background

Go to   Layer > New Fill Layer > Solid Colour > OK

Whatever colour you find in the 'Pick a solid color' box, can be changed. Find the white circle, and take it to the white corner, all the way into the corner. This will give you a white background. To choose a different colour, use the slider on the colour selector, and the circle to choose the exact colour and shade you want. Click OK

At this point your image has disappeared !!
Look in the panel on the right, your image is below the white layer. Hover over it with your cursor, then left click, hold, move and release. Your image should now be on the white background (or whatever colour you chose)

To check the size of your image go to Image > Resize > Image Size and check the size and resolution of your image. You want the resolution to be 300 pixels/inch. If the image is too big or too small, check Resample image and constrain Proportions before changing the size.

Once you're happy, save the file and check it with your image viewer.