

Essential Skills Every Digital Artist Must Know (Syllabus)

Adding a Signature to Digital Art

- Preset Signatures
- Saving Signed Artwork

Adding an Impasto Overlay

Adjusting Brush Opacity & Flow

- Adjusting Opacity
- Adjusting Opacity with Shortcuts
- Adjusting Opacity with a Touch Ring or Express Keys
- Preset Brush Opacity
- Adjusting Opacity On-Screen
- Opacity VS Flow
- Opacity Influence

Adjusting the Brush Size

- Resizing the Brush with a Shortcut
- Varying Line Width with Pen Pressure
- Resizing the Brush in Increments
- Resizing the Brush with a Touch Ring or an Express Key
- Resizing the Brush with a Pen Button
- Preset Brush Sizes

Basics of Digital Watercolor

- Emulating the Watercolor Look
- Choosing Colors
- Layering Watercolor
- Blending Watercolor
- Erasing Watercolor
- Using White as Plain Water
- Watercolor Performance

Blending Modes

- “Brush” Blending Modes

- “Layer” Blending Modes
- Blending Mode Effects

Brush Expressions

- Pressure Expression
- Expression Curves
- Inverting Expressions
- Angling Dabs
- Pen Tilt
- Rotation
- Tip Tilt
- Simulating Expressions with a Mouse

Brush Techniques

- Dabbing
- Brush Strokes
- Tapered Strokes
- Building Opacity
- Building Opacity by Glazing
- Building Opacity with Glow
- Pencil Drawing & Shading
- Curves & Lines
- Textured Chalk & Sponge Brushes
- Blending Techniques
- Blending Near Layer Edges

Calibrating Pen Pressure

- Custom Pressure Curves
- Testing Pressure
- In-App Pressure Calibration
- Poor Quality Pens

Changing the Canvas Background Color

Canvas Dimensions & Resolution

- Canvas Dimensions
- Resolution
- Other Features

Clone Tool

Common Digital Art Filters

- Brightness/Contrast
- Levels
- Filter Layers
- Curves
- HSV
- Color Balance
- Desaturate
- Invert
- Gaussian Blur
- Sharpen
- Masking Filters
- Fading Filters

Crop Tool

- Aspect Ratio

Cut, Copy & Paste

- Cut
- Paste
- Copy
- Cutting or Copying into Memory
- Paste Into

Digital Art Brush Anatomy

- Dab Shapes
- Edge Hardness
- Brush Media
- Multiple Dabs
- Exotic Brushes

Erasing Digital Art

- Eraser Tool
- Eraser Mode
- Erasing with Your Pen

- Erasing with a Pen Button
- Blending & Other Functions with the Eraser End

Essential Brushes

File Saving Basics

- File Formats
- Proper Saving Habits
- Save or Save As?
- Iterative Saving
- File Organization Basics

Fill Tool (Paint Bucket)

Grain

- Grain Density
- Grain Pressure Expression
- Multiple Grains
- Grain Texture Properties
- Inverting Grain
- Advanced Grain Properties
- Grain Randomization
- Creating Custom Grains
- Blending with Grain
- Removing Grain

Hand-Drawn Guides with a Ruler

- Guides
- Grid Overlay
- Exotic Guides

Hiding the User Interface

- Full Screen Mode

How to Choose a Color

- Color Selection Process
- Recent Colors
- Color Grids
- Color Picker Shapes

Layer Masks

- Layer Mask Options
- Painting in a Mask
- Using Gradients in a Mask
- Saving & Loading Layer Masks

Layers Panel

- Layer Order
- Arranging Layers
- Constraining Layer Movement
- Auto Select Layer
- Layer Visibility
- Merging Hidden Layers
- Saving Layers
- Creating & Modifying Layers
- Being Aware of Which Layer is Active
- Locking Layers
- The "Canvas" Layer
- Grouping Layers
- Sub-Groups
- Ungrouping Layers
- Duplicating Layers
- Duplicating Groups of Layers
- Envisioning Layer Order Before Painting
- Temporary Fill Colors
- Layer Opacity
- Layer Blending

Liquify Distortion

- Bulge
- Pinch
- Push Left
- Twirl

- Reconstruct
- Bake Changes
- Saving Distortion Brushes

Lock Transparency

Magic Wand

- Tolerance
- Advanced Magic Wand Options

Merging Layers

- Blending Merged Layers to Unify Shapes
- Can You Unmerge Layers?

Perspective Guides

- Two Point Perspective
- One Point & Three Point Perspective
- Freehand Mode
- Saving Perspective Guides
- Windows 10/11 Crosshairs

Primary & Secondary Colors

- Previewing Colors
- Toggling Between Two Colors
- Customizing Colors
- Remember to Return to the Primary Color

Rectangle, Ellipse & Lasso Selections

- Rectangle & Ellipse
- Freehand Lasso
- Polygonal Lasso
- Add & Subtract From a Selection
- Transforming Selections
- Move Selection & Selected Layer Contents

- Saving & Loading Selections
- Using Selections to Preserve Layers

Sampling Colors from the Canvas

- Sample Size
- Sample Source
- Creating Color Swatch Layers

Save With a Transparent Background

- Importing Images with Transparency
- Printing Images with Transparency

Scaling & Resizing The Canvas

- Reducing an Image
- Enlarging an Image
- How to Resize to a Different Aspect Ratio
- Canvas Size

Select All Visible Layer Contents

- Comparison to Clipping Masks

Smoothing (Brush Stabilization)

- How to Use Smoothing

Toning the Composition Non-Destructively

- Darker Tone
- Overlay Tone
- Sampling Toned Colors
- Color Filters

Transformations & Distortion

- Transform Properties
- Reference Point

- Transforming with Touch
- Transforming Multiple Layers & Groups
- Loss of Image Quality After Transforming
- Non-Destructive Transformation
- Skew, Distortion, Warp & Perspective Modes

Undo & Redo

- Undo Limitations

Using Shortcut Buttons

- Zoom
- Panning Your View of the Canvas
- Fit Canvas
- Rotating the Canvas
- Modifiers
- Clear
- Hide UI
- Touch On/Off
- Brush
- Transform
- Undo/Redo
- Deselect
- Save
- Navigating with Pen Buttons
- Eraser
- Right-Click
- Resize Brush
- Differentiating Keys

Warp & Distortion

- Distortion
- Perspective Distortion