

'DIGITAL ART' BY JON SHEPHERD

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2025 7.00–9.15PM

What to expect on the night

I will have my iPad hooked up to either my large monitor screen or the hall's projector depending on what works best on the night. It will be set to mirror mode, so you will be seeing exactly what I see.

I will take you through the various functions of Procreate and how it works with the Apple Pencil. If you have an iPad and have installed Procreate or some other similar drawing app on Apple or Android, then you can follow long with me. I will take it slow and I am happy to answer any questions you might have as we go along.

Hopefully it will all go ok on the night, I don't do instructional demonstrations and this will only be my second ever. The first was a demonstration of our sound effects software for our East Bridgford drama group at an open evening we held a couple of years ago.

The stages below may at first sound a little daunting but they are quite easy to pick up and you don't need them all to start with. You can build on them as you go and there are plenty of youtube and Procreate videos to look back on. I will be giving a full set of notes on the night to take away.

SELECTING A CANVAS SIZE

and if required, inserting a reference photo or illustration to work from.

COLOUR PALETTES

Using the colour picker

Selecting and using colour palettes, showing the current range available or how to create your own either using a photo as a reference or with Harmony settings in which we have options of Complementary, Split Complementary, Analogous, Triadic or Tetradic.

Working with brushes

Selecting and modifying brushes if required.

Using the side controls of size/density of stroke.

Plus Smudge tool and Eraser tool.

Finger Gestures

For erase, undo and redo.

LAYERS

Working with layers and colour blending.

QUICKSHAPE

Create very easy Lines, Squares, Triangles and Circles.

EDITING TOOLS

Actions, Adjustments, Select, Transform.

ACTIONS

Working with Blurs, Noise, Sharpen, Masks and copy and paste etc.

EXPORT OPTIONS

File formats to share.

TIME-LAPSE Reply

Tap Actions, Video and Time Lapse replay.!

Finally I will show just a few that I have created and some that come as standard with Procreate. They show the amazing detail that can be produced... if you have the patience and ability!

Interested in buying an iPad or Android tablet?

Before attending the class you might like to look at equipment and also what software is available. Unfortunately I don't have any spare machines for you to practice on.

My experience has been solely with the iPad and prior to that a Wacom drawing tablet attached to an Apple Mac in previous years. Though there are some excellent programs available for Android tablets as well.

You could buy a new high spec iPad Pro, I have often bought tech items second hand and they can be in "as new" condition at a fraction of the cost. Though you will just need to check what operating software they can handle as older iPad and Android devices can't handle the processing requirements of the newer apps. I bought the latest one at the time to help "future proof" it a bit from ongoing software updates. Ebay is always a good place to look.

If you were to buy new, here are your options <https://www.apple.com/uk/ipad/>
(I will be demonstrating with an iPad Pro 12.9" 5th generation) bought new in 2021 for £740.

From experience they do last and last, I have only sold one on last year that I have had for over 10 years due to it not being able to load the latest software. Used ones can be sold on or gifted to family and grandchildren so they are never wasted :)

iPad Pro

Available in Space black, and Silver
Size 13" or 11" From £999

iPad Air

Available in Space Grey, Blue, Purple and Starlight in a thin and light design.
Size 13" or 11" From £599

iPad

The colourful, all-screen iPad for the things you do every day.
Size 10.9" From £329

Stylus options

You can use your finger but a stylus is really a must if you are going to do anything serious with it. There are a range of them available but if using an iPad I can't recommend the Apple Pencil highly enough! It has a great feel to it and is also pressure sensitive, it even has a different stroke if you hold it side on to the iPad as you might well do with a pencil for shading.

I bought mine, an Apple Pencil 2nd generation for iPad Pro, second hand and works perfectly. That was on Ebay it was £65.00. On the Apple store they are currently £129! Don't buy new unless you really want to. In use they attach magnetically onto the side of the iPad and start charging quickly without needing to plug them in which is so easy.

ANDROID

I will let you find your own tablet as I don't have a lot of experience there.

You may already own one but if not, here is a link to a **Galaxy Tab A9+ for £135.99**
(Please note it wont work with the Apple Pencil)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CP839PQ2?tag=pcmaguk-21&ascsubtag=07HqgdE6Pq8aqt6t5dB0vW2>

DRAWING APPS

Next onto drawing apps as you will get nowhere without one! Often you can have free trials of them to see which suits your way of working best.

IPAD

20 Best Drawing & Art Apps for iPad (2024) Free/Paid

<https://www.clipstudio.net/how-to-draw/archives/167369>

Procreate 4+

This is the one I will be demonstrating, often used by professionals. There are many tutorials out there for it as well.

Have a look on Domestika.com for training videos... but *after* my talk though!

It supports high resolution files, many layers and can export to jpeg or .PSD photoshop files. One great thing about it is that you can export a video of the timelapse of your work to share online.

How much is Procreate on iPad?: \$12.99 or around £10.46 very reasonable!

Compatibility: The latest version of Procreate currently needs iPadOS 16.3 or newer to be installed.

Sketchbook

Sketchbook is an app great for doodling and jotting down simple ideas. With its clean interface and highly customisable tools, you can focus on drawing and painting to your heart's content.

Get Everything (Pro version): \$9.99

ArtRage

This is the iPad/iPhone version of ArtRage Vitae, a desktop drawing app that boasts realistic colour blending, paint mixing, and textures. Aside from pencils and paintbrushes, you can also use traditional tools not usually found in digital art programs like paint rollers and palette knives. **How much is ArtRage Vitae on iPad?: \$4.99**

Clip Studio Paint PRO

How much is Clip Studio Paint PRO on iPad?: A limited trial version is free to download, but you must create a free Clip Studio account and sign up for a plan via the app or official website in order to save or export files. First-time subscribers get 3 months free plus bonuses to use on brushes and materials from Clip Studio Assets. Single and multi-device plans are available.

Single device plan: \$4.49/month (\$26.99/year)

Up to 2 devices: \$7.49/month (\$35.99/year) Up to 4 devices: \$8.99/month (\$54.99/year)

Personally I hate subscription models, I used to use the Adobe Suite but at currently £57 a month it was quickly dropped when I retired!

TOP 3 ANDROID DRAWING APPS

as recommended by www.creativebloq.com

<https://www.creativebloq.com/buying-guides/best-drawing-app-for-android>

KRITA

We would rate Krita as the best Android drawing app for most users. Unlike most competitors, it's free and open-source, meaning it isn't plagued by in-app ads or nags about subscribing. It's stacked with features for artists, from layer management to a big brush range.

INFINITE PAINTER

Best Procreate alternative. Popular drawing app Procreate is sadly only available for Apple devices. If you want something for Android that delivers a similar experience, our recommendation is the excellent Infinite Painter.

SKETCHBOOK

Best for pros. If you want an app that supports a professional artist's workflow, Sketchbook is an excellent choice. It supports the Samsung S-Pen, and offers a huge range of pencils, pens, markers, and brushes. We also really rate the clean, straightforward interface.