

MODERN ARTISTRY



Featuring

DIGITAL ART

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By Mahika Kulkarni

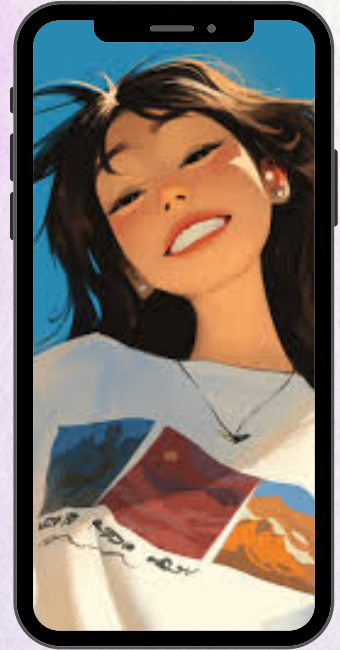
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TELL YOUR BOOMER PARENTS THAT DIGITAL ART IS IN FACT REAL ART!

Happen to find yourself in a situation where you have to constantly have to explain to your boomer parents that digital is “real art”? You’re not alone in the frustrating battle for recognition.

Digital art is any artwork created with the help of digital technology such as software and computers. This type of art has tools such as Photoshop, Procreate, or 3D modelling programs which can be used to create various styles of artworks. Despite digital artists making waves in major galleries, setting auction records and embracing the modern form of art, there’s still a lingering idea that “real” art needs a brush, a canvas, and paint. However, in a world where creativity can blossom on screen just as well as on paper, it is time we break free from this archaic mindset and realise that pixels can also make masterpieces.



I was scrolling on Tiktok and was instantly drawn to the dazzling videos of unique digital drawing. The first thought that came into my mind was, how hard can it be? I regret asking that. Learning to draw digitally was just as hard as learning to draw in real life.

While many artists (cough, boomers) would argue that digital art is an easy alternative to traditional art due to the lack of tactile effort, digital art requires a high degree of technical skill and computer expertise. Digital art requires a good understanding of Photoshop, Procreate, Blender, and more, which allow them to manipulate texture, light, colour, and perspective to achieve their artistic vision. According to the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, “In order to be a true digital artist, you must learn the same types of skills to perform digital artwork that you would for traditional artwork”. To be embraced as a true digital artist, one must develop the same foundational skills, such as composition, colour theory, and technique, that are crucial to traditional artwork. Mastering these skills takes time and passion, like learning any other art form, so digital art should not be dismissed as not being “real art” simply because of people’s ignorance and the ability to not accept technology as a tool to express creativity.

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Many people believe that digital art lacks the “human touch” that traditional art possesses, assuming that the use of technology removes the artist's personal connection to the work. However, this outdated perception overlooks that digital tools are simply tools. Yet, when other art forms use tools that prevent physically touching the artwork, is it considered acceptable?



Just as painting requires a paintbrush or sculpting requires a chisel, the technology is a bridge to bring the artist's vision to life. David McLeod, an digital artist and educator, explains, “The tools don't make the artist; the artist makes the art”. The creativity, emotion and skill within digital art is entirely dependent on the artist's choice and hand. Similar to how many other art forms use tools, the technology aspect in digital art is just a tool. The “human touch” is still present in digital art through the artist's decisions, intention and the way they use their art medium to create “real art” .

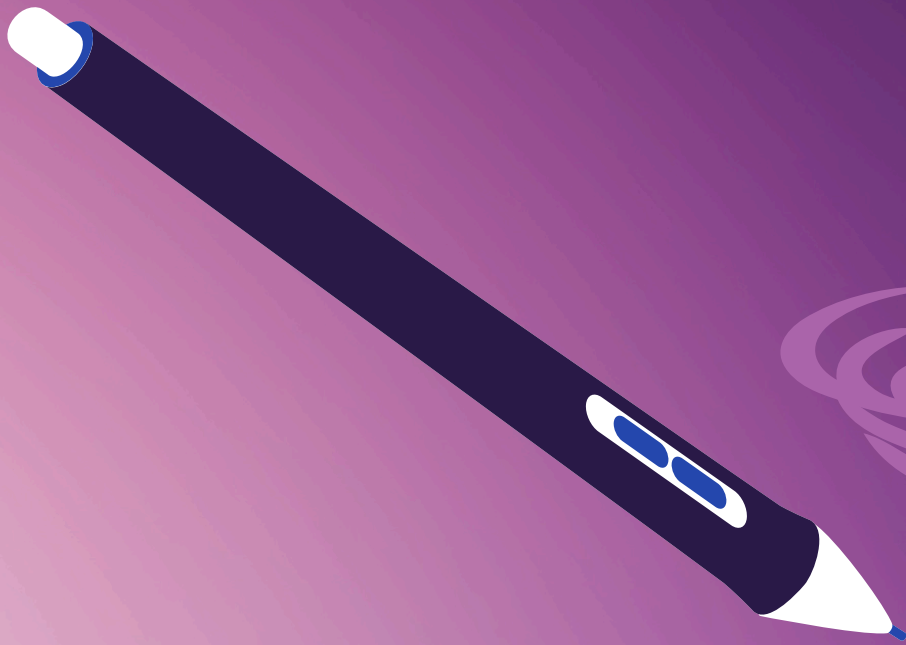
A few years ago, I wouldn't have even known what digital art was and how it was done. However, thanks to artists displaying their digital artworks on social media, the recognition of digital art is growing.

Digital art is a powerful form of expression and creativity which is valued by many young artists and collectors. Digital art still allows artists to communicate ideas, emotions and intention through various digital art mediums. More people are experimenting with digital art as it provides creative flexibility and gives artists freedom to explore. In 2023, the global Digital Art Market was valued at \$4 billion USD and is expected to climb to \$12.1 billion by 2030. Digital art is gaining recognition, mainly from youngsters, and is a valuable art form. The growing market value and popularity of digital, illustrates the community of artists that are slowly moving out of the outdated mindset and accepting that digital art is “real art”.

As the world progresses, art is expanding to include modern forms and more technological approaches, digital art is becoming more popular and there is nothing wrong with it. However, to embrace digital art as “real art”, we need to lose the archaic mindset and acknowledge new art forms that are emerging. The medium does not reduce the authenticity or originality of the art created.

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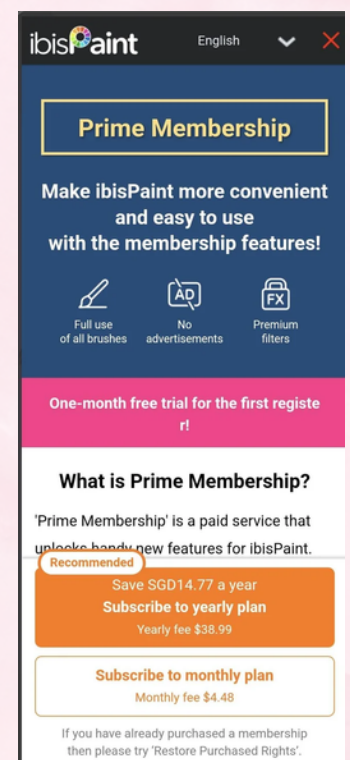


Why is Ibis paint just amazing at ruining creativity? If you want to download Ibis paint to let your creativity go wild, think again. Ibis paint is more overhyped than it should be.

Imagine being on a creative flow while creating an art work, and wanting nothing to disturb you. BAM! Here is a 30 second ad to block your thinking process. This is a major problem I faced while using this digital drawing app alongside having to constantly purchase certain templates and brushes which completely stopped my thinking chain. Ibis paint is so crammed and unorganised, having me scroll through an endless list of tools to find what I want, destroying my creative streak.

The most annoying feature within this app is the ads. Even though this app may be the only free app for online art, it doesn't live up to the standard of any basic digital app, especially due to its ads. Ibis paint has an uncontrollable amount of ads, displaying an ad in every stage of using the app. Some ads take away 30 seconds to a minute from the artistic process of creating the art, while some ads stick around the drawing screen, making it feel crammed. Compared to other digital art platforms, Procreate provides better services with little to no ads guaranteed while also maintaining an organised screen. Either its time taken away or ads sticking to your screen, it is extremely infuriating to be stopped mid-way.

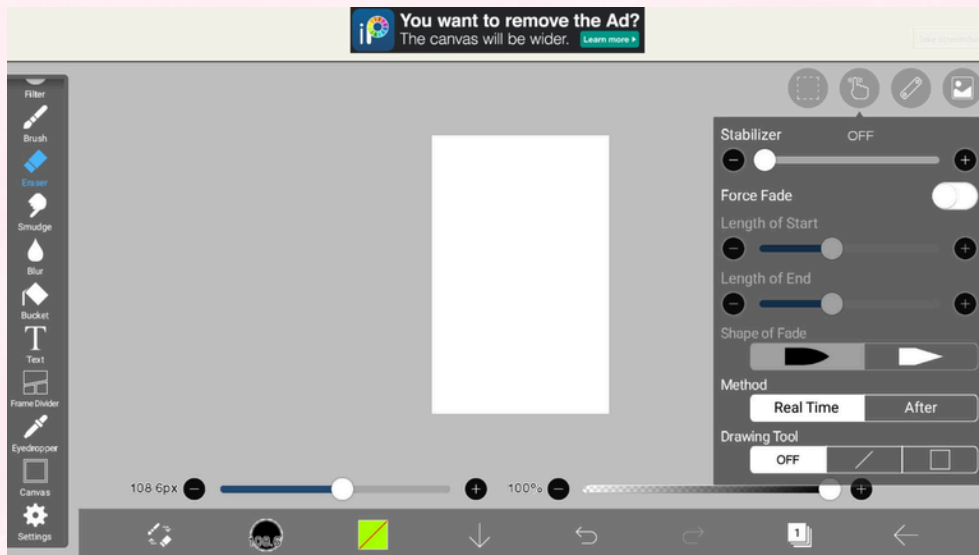
Why should I constantly have to stop painting mid-stroke to purchase the tools I need urgently? While Ibis paint is mainly a free digital art platform, it still charges money for its best features. These constant reminders to buy higher level tools, disrupts my thinking flow. On the other hand, Procreate is a meadow for creativity to grow through its one time purchase which grants the freedom to create without disruptions. Procreate guarantees an ads free experience with a \$13 purchase, so then why settle for a platform like Ibis paint that keeps your creativity on a hook? What should be an enjoyable experience to use Ibis paint is made into a frustrating battle of constant paywalls.



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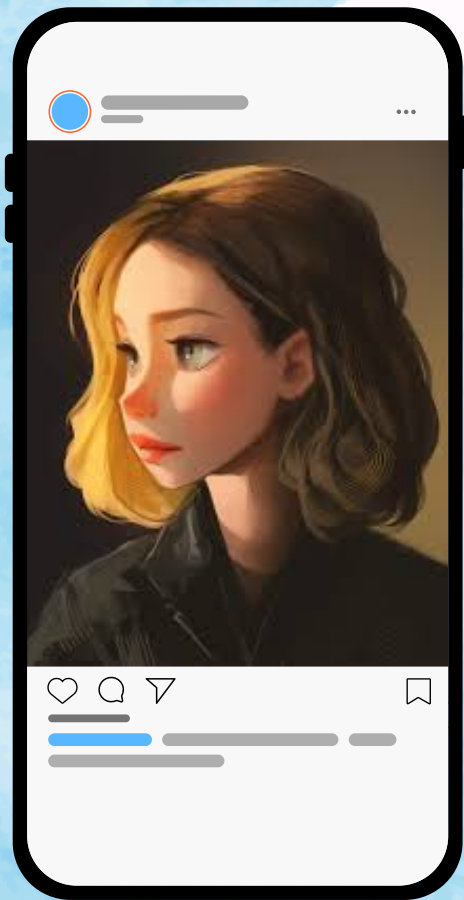
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If chaos on your canvas drives you mad, don't get Ibis paint because of its cluttered layout and scattered tools. Whenever I'm creating artwork that requires a range of brushes, I have to scroll through a long list of options, which is time-consuming and frustrating. The constant switching between different panels to find important features breaks your focus, making you more frustrated than inspired. This messy setup not only drags down the creative process but also makes using the app into an annoying chore. Like our rooms weren't already messy, we have to deal with this too?

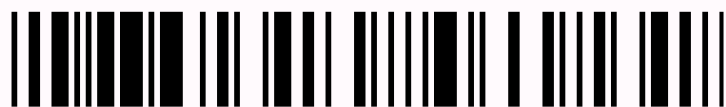


Ibis paint feels more like a roadblock for creativity. The continuous ads, scattered tools and constant payments is enough to make any artist throw their stylus in frustration. Why lower our standards of art for a platform that kills creativity instead of letting it thrive? Save your storage space and your sanity by skipping Ibis paint.

MODERN ARTISTRY



THANK YOU
FOR READING



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