

SHARING & SELLING

PICARTO (STREAMING)

Picarto is a streaming service dedicated to artists who share their art creations live. It allows viewers to chat with the artist as they work.

TWITCH (STREAMING)

Twitch is a popular streaming service primarily for gaming though it does have a “Creative” category.

DEVIANART (GALLERY)

DeviantArt is a gallery-based art hosting website where artists have been sharing their art for decades. It’s free to use and even has a print selling option.

ARTSTATION (GALLERY)

ArtStation is a competitor to DeviantArt and appeals to the more professional side of the industry.

PATREON (BUSINESS)

Patreon offers creatives the opportunity to have their patrons fund their endeavors with a monthly income.

LEARNING

LINKEDIN LEARNING

All library customers at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library have access to LinkedIn Learning, an online resource for classes of all kinds, including digital art.

YOUTUBE

YouTube has an abundance of tutorials for all of the software listed here. Here are a few active YouTube tutorial creators.

- Sara Tepes
- GDQuest
- David Revoy
- Logos by Nick
- Winged Canvas
- IronEcho Design



THE DABBLE BOX is a space where curious people can dabble in science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities. It has equipment ranging from robots, to a sewing machine, to musical instruments available during open labs.

Play · Make · Share



DABBLE BOX BASICS

Digital Art



Updated May 2, 2023



L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library

400 EAU CLAIRE STREET, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701
715-839-5004 | DABBLE@EAUCLAIRE.LIB.WI.US
WWW.ECPUBLICLIBRARY.INFO/DABBLE

WHAT IS DIGITAL ART?

Digital art is a broad term that includes everything from professional work seen in movies, video games, illustrations, and advertising, to personal endeavors such as digital drawing/painting, animation, 3D modeling, etc. It's a constantly growing and changing field.

This brochure will help guide you to various free and low-cost resources to help you begin exploring the world of digital art.

RASTER VS. VECTOR

Graphics can be categorized as vector or raster graphics. The most common graphic format is raster like photos or paintings. Raster uses colored pixels to display an image with a specific resolution. Vector graphics use math instead of pixels and are useful in advertising and applications where resizing is required, but are limited to simpler graphics like logos or text



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

For 3D modeling and printing resources and tips, see Dabble Box Basics: 3D Modeling & Printing.

For AI-generated art, see Dabble Box Basics: Artificial Intelligence (AI).

FREE DIGITAL ART SOFTWARE

There are many free applications for the budding artist to dip their toes in the complicated world of digital art. The following titles are free and for both personal and commercial use. Most of the software listed here works with digital drawing tablets and pen pressure.

KRITA (RASTER) OPEN SOURCE

Krita is a powerful open source tool available for digital painting and arguably the best free option available.

GIMP (RASTER) OPEN SOURCE

Gimp is an open source alternative to Photoshop. It is primarily for photo editing but has add-ons for painting and drawing. Pen pressure settings can be finicky.

INKSCAPE (VECTOR) OPEN SOURCE

Inkscape is an open source vector graphic alternative to Adobe Illustrator. It's able to open .ai files and provides near equal quality.

MEDIBANG PAINT (RASTER) FREWARE

MediBang is geared toward manga or comic style art. It has a convenient feature that provides users with access to an account where their work may be saved online, accessed from other devices, and to collaborate with others. MediBang also allows users to sell their work through the ARTstreet store.

VECTR (VECTOR) FREWARE

Vectr is a free web-based or installable application that provides a very basic experience as well as online storage for your work.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Artweaver 7 Free (Raster) Non-Commercial
- Paint.net (Raster) Freeware, No Pen Pressure
- FireAlpaca (Raster) Freeware, Medibang Clone
- Pixlr (Raster) Freeware Desktop Publishing
- Sketchpad (Raster) Very Basic Web-Based Freeware

AFFORDABLE SOFTWARE

More affordable than the industry standards like Adobe Photoshop or Corel Painter.

CLIP STUDIO PAINT (RASTER) \$50/\$219

Clip Studio Paint is used primarily for comic and manga drawing. There is a plethora of tutorials to teach how to use it.

PAINT TOOL SAI 2 (RASTER) ~\$41

Paint Tool SAI has been around for decades. Will run on nearly anything. Provides artists with a high quality experience, easy to navigate menus, and plenty of brushes and tools.

ARTRAGE (RASTER) \$80

ArtRage is an art simulator where you use a digital canvas with simulated real-world painting & drawing.

AFFINITY DESIGNER (VECTOR) \$70

AFFINITY PHOTO (RASTER) \$70

Affinity has low-cost alternatives to Adobe's products: Affinity Designer for Adobe Illustrator and Affinity Photo for Adobe Photoshop.

PAINTSTORM STUDIO (RASTER) \$19

A very cost effective software with unique features such as a palette mixing dock that allows the manual mixing of colors.

REBELLE & FLAME PAINTER (RASTER) \$90 EACH

Escape Motions offers a few different options including Flame Painter for amazing flame effects and Rebelle for "hyper-realistic painting" that simulates real paint.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Artweaver 7 (Raster) ~\$37
- Procreate (Raster) ~\$37, iPad only
- ArtRage Vitae (Raster) \$5, iOS & Android