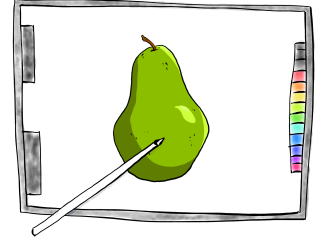


Macstock X Pixel to Paper Workshop Resources

The key to improving your drawing skills, or any other artistic skill, is practice. Some guidance is pretty useful, too. Since there are so many options out there, here's a collection of books, online tutorials and classes, apps, and inspirational resources to get you started.



Books

Books are great because you can work at your own pace. I have all three of these books and still reference them for drawing exercises and ideas. They're good for more than mastering the basics because they explain "why" along with "how." Think of them like your own personal master artist who never gets impatient and always has examples at the ready.

- [Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain](#) - Betty Edwards
- [Pen and Ink Drawing: A Simple Guide](#) - Alphonso Dunn
- [You Can Draw in 30 Days](#) - Mark Kistler

Online Art Tutorials

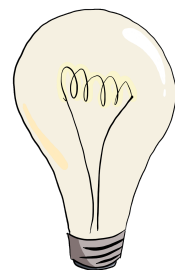
Watching people create and following along is another powerful tool for improving your artistic skills. Online videos are available for most drawing and painting apps, so there's a good chance you can see a wide range of techniques in action. I even watch tutorials for drawing and painting apps I don't use to learn techniques I wouldn't have otherwise discovered. I'm also a big fan of London Drawing Group because the online classes they offer are taught by professional artists without feeling intimidating, and their pay-what-you-can makes all of their classes available to everyone.

- [Linea Sketch tutorials](#)
- [Learn to Draw | Getting Started](#) (Concepts app)
- [London Drawing Group](#)

Inspiration

I look to a wide range of artists for inspiration, to fuel my creativity, and to just feel good. Go big and explore as many artists as you can, and don't forget to include musicians, dancers, writers, and any other creative medium you enjoy. The artists on this list are a few who have fed my creativity, and Inktober gets an honorable mention because making a drawing a day based on their prompts is a fun exercise.

- [David Hockney](#)
- [David Hockney iPad painting video](#)
- [Frida Kahlo](#)
- [Henri Matisse](#)
- [Gustav Klimt](#)
- [Georgia O'Keeffe](#)
- [Jean-Michel Basquiat](#)
- [Inktober](#)



There's a slide in my Macstock workshop highlighting some pieces that bring me joy. I included a few of my own works because seeing them go to new homes made me happy, or they just gave me a smile. The works from the other artists are in my personal collection and they all deserve recognition.

- [Bryan Chaffin](#)
- [Angela Bowman](#)
- [Gregory Fields](#)
- [Molly Ott](#)
- [Jeff Gamet](#)



Apple Pencil Tips and iPad Screen Protectors

If the feel of the Apple Pencil on your iPad works for you, great. If you're looking for a more paper-like texture, you have options. After trying several alternate Apple Pencil tips and screen protectors, Astropad's Rock Paper Pencil rose to the top. It's a removable screen protector and alternate pencil tip combo that, at least for me, has a texture and resistance that feels much more paper-like.

- [Astropad Rock Paper Pencil](#) - Most iPad models, \$44.99

Digital Art Apps

Finding the right art app is a lot like finding comfortable shoes. Just like with shoes, we need lots of options to find the right fit. That said, I have a short list of apps that have a high likelihood of hitting the sweet spot for most people. I'm a huge Linea Sketch fan because it intentionally has a limited tool set and more closely mimics what I'd carry with me for actual paper drawing. It also has a companion app for importing your works into Mac-based creative apps. I like Procreate because its much larger tool works well when creating more intricate pieces. Affinity is a nice solution if you're looking for an alternative to Adobe Creative Cloud. Affinity on the Mac and Windows includes Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign analogues. Affinity isn't available for iPad yet, but its precursor apps, Photo 2, Designer 2, and Publisher 2 are. Affinity on the Mac supports Designer 2, Photo 2, and Publisher 2 files, but Affinity files are not backwards compatible with Designer, Photo, and Publisher.

- [Linea Sketch](#) - iPad, Free (limited features) / \$1.99 month / \$19.99 annual \$59.99 lifetime
- [Linea Link](#) - Mac, Free
- [Procreate](#) - iPad, \$12.99
- [Affinity](#) - Mac, Free (requires free Canva account)
- [Designer 2](#) - iPad, Free
- [Photo 2](#) - iPad, Free

About Jeff

Jeff Gamet is currently a freelance content creator, technology blogger, podcaster, author, and public speaker. Previously, he was The Mac Observer's Managing Editor, and the TextExpander Evangelist for Smile. He has presented at Macworld Expo, RSA Conference, several WordCamp events, along with many other conferences. You can find him on several podcasts such as The Mac Show, MacVoices, Mac OS Ken, In Touch with iOS, The Context Machine, Retro Rewatch, and more. Jeff is easy to find on social media as @jgamet on Mastodon, Bluesky and Pixelfed, and jeffgamet on LinkedIn. He occasionally writes on his blogs at jeffgamet.com and Fresh Brewed Tales and is available via email at jeff@digi-wizard.com.