

COREL®
painter™ 

Reviewer's Guide

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Corel® Painter™ X Reviewer's Guide

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Andrew Jones

Introducing Corel® Painter™ X

Art and Passion

Built from the ground up as a digital art studio, Painter™ has set the standard for professional art software since its inception. Every day, world-renowned artists, designers, and photographers delve into Corel® Painter™ to explore their passions and create their personal masterpieces.

Delivering the next-generation art studio, Corel Painter X continues its focus on the fundamentals of art technique and theory. Corel Painter X offers new features that help artists achieve the perfect composition, color palette, and brush stroke. Working closely with our professional customers, the Corel Painter team explored the relationship between the artist's hand and the canvas. The result is a revolutionary new painting system that offers a natural, organic, and expressive painting experience — right down to the individual bristles on the brush.

This reviewer's guide walks you through the new features in Corel Painter X, which blur the lines between traditional and digital painting like never before. We invite you to discover for yourself why professional artists, designers, and photographers say there is no substitute for Corel Painter.

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Bill Hall

Customer Profiles for Corel® Painter™ X

Commercial Designers

Commercial designers require powerful tools for their craft, which is why many of the world's foremost automotive concept designers, industrial designers, architects, commercial illustrators, and graphic designers use Corel Painter. Corel Painter X enables designers to vividly capture their creative vision and handcraft distinctive designs, illustrations, and logos for their clients.

Entertainment Artists

Leading artists in the entertainment industry who work for such companies as Lucasfilm and Disney use Corel Painter to produce some of the world's best-known movies and video games. Professional entertainment artists speed their production time by using Corel Painter with their natural talents and traditional techniques to create astounding scenes, characters, vehicles, and textures.

Professional Photographers

In recent years, Corel Painter has sparked a new trend in the professional photography market as photographers explore the creative possibilities of turning their photographs into paintings. Corel Painter offers photographers new revenue streams by making it easier than ever to create hand-painted works of art from their photographs.

Fine Artists

Many fine artists use Corel Painter as their primary art medium. Their works appear in galleries around the world, demonstrating that digitally created art, like oils and watercolor, is becoming "just another medium" on the world's art scene. With its new features, Corel Painter X continues to blur the lines between the traditional and the digital painting experience.

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John Derry

What's Included with Corel® Painter™ X?

Main Application

- Corel® Painter™ X, Mac OS® and Windows® versions

Content

- Libraries of unique gradients, nozzles, patterns, stock photos, paper textures, and brushes, including the new RealBristle brush category

Documentation

- Printed User Guide
- HTML Help files
- PDF User Guide with advanced topics

Training

- New training videos featuring Painter Master Jeremy Sutton
- Tips & Tricks in Welcome book
- Online tutorials

Minimum System Requirements

Mac OS® version:

- Mac OS® X (version 10.3.9 or higher)
- Power Mac® G4, 700 MHz or greater; or any Macintosh® computer with the Intel® processor
- 256 MB of RAM (512 MB recommended)
- Mouse or tablet
- 24-bit color display

- 1024 × 768 screen resolution
- CD drive

Windows® version:

- Windows 2000, Windows XP Tablet PC, Windows XP Home, Windows XP Professional, or Windows Vista™ operating system (with latest service packs)
- Pentium® III, 700 MHz or greater
- 256 MB of RAM (512 MB recommended)
- Mouse or tablet
- 24-bit color display
- 1024 × 768 screen resolution
- CD drive

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Chet Phillips

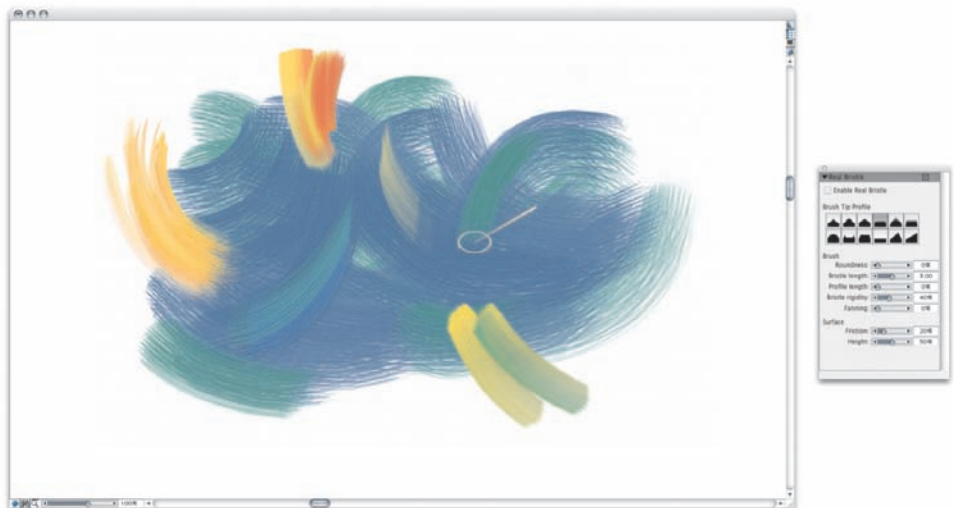
Top New Features of Corel® Painter™ X

Corel Painter X offers a broad range of tools and features that inspire creativity, increase performance, and further extend compatibility with other industry-standard tools and applications.

Creativity

Corel Painter X delivers an impressive array of new features that provide unprecedented power to replicate traditional art media — right down to the individual bristles on the brush.

New! RealBristle Painting System: The new RealBristle Painting System heightens the responsiveness of the brush for the artist and represents a major milestone for digital painting. While artists have always marveled at how closely Corel Painter simulates the look of traditional art media, Corel Painter X takes realism to a whole new level. With Corel Painter X, artists can now faithfully replicate the sensation of the interaction between the paint, canvas, and brush. Unrivaled, the RealBristle Painting System authentically reproduces the natural movement of the artist's brush.



*The RealBristle Painting System.
Image created by Cher Threinen-Pendarvis.*

Give it a try

Using the RealBristle Painting System

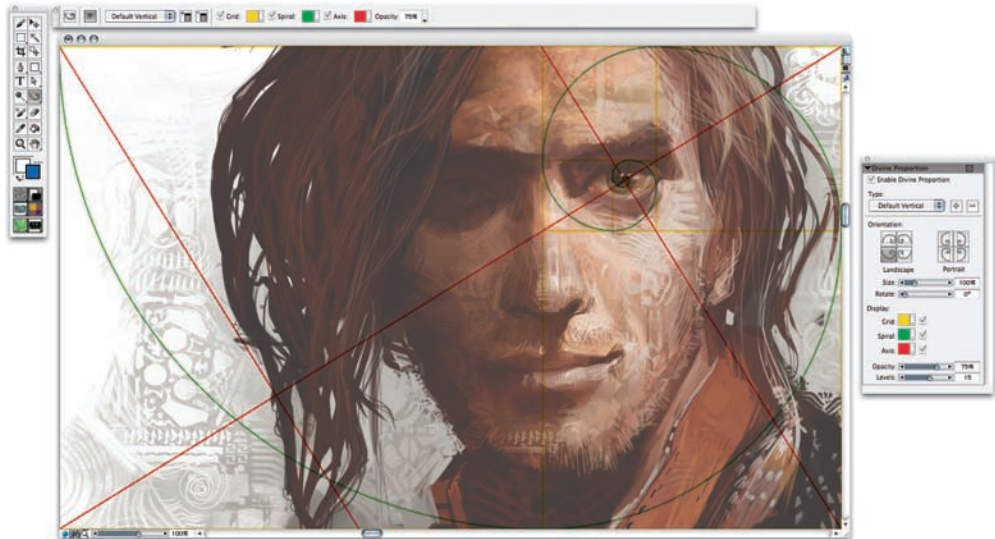
- 1** Choose **File** menu ► **New**.
- 2** In the New dialog box, keep the default settings, and click **OK**.
- 3** On the Brush Selector bar, choose **RealBristle Brushes** from the **Brush Category** selector.
- 4** From the **Brush Variant** selector, choose one of the following variants:
 - **Real Round Bristle**
 - **Real Tapered Wet Flat**
 - **Real Fan Soft**
- 5** As you paint on the canvas, note how the bristles on the brush bend and splay — just like their traditional counterparts.

New! Divine Proportion: The new Divine Proportion composition tool helps artists visually arrange their canvas prior to drawing or painting. Widely used throughout history by artists, designers, and architects, divine proportion is a ratio of 1:1.61803398874989, or approximately three to five, which is generally recognized as aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

In 1509, Luca Pacioli coined the term “divine proportion” with the publication of his widely influential treatise, *De Divina Proportione*. The book was illustrated by renowned scientist, inventor, and artist Leonardo da Vinci, who is believed to have used the ratio in much of his own art, including the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.

The ratio, however, first appeared in 300 BC. In *Elements*, considered the world’s most important mathematics textbook, Euclid of Alexandria introduced a line divided into its “extreme and mean” ratio. Over time, the ratio was discovered to also have significance in nature, music, and art. It has been used by many of the world’s most recognized artists, designers, and architects, such as Serpant, Seurat, Michelangelo, and Le Corbusier.

This helpful tool is ideal to assist artists in creating visually stunning compositions, whether they are painting from a blank canvas or cropping a photograph before transforming it into a painting. Corel Painter X provides palette controls for the Divine Proportion composition tool, which allow the artist to adjust the orientation, size, angle of rotation, display colors, opacity, and grid levels.



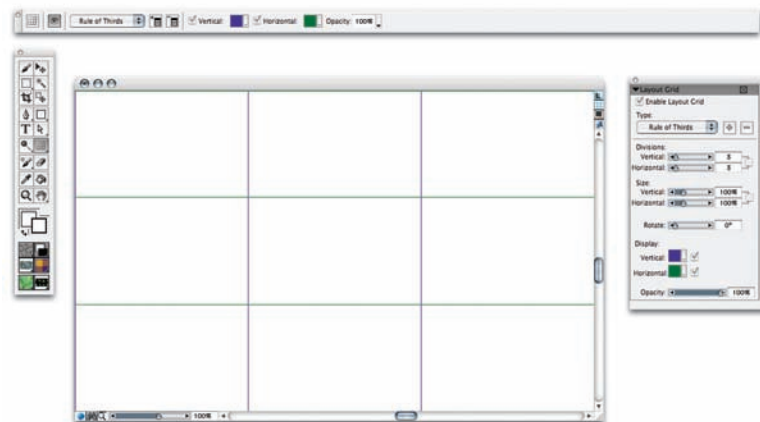
The new Divine Proportion composition tool can be used to visually arrange the canvas. Original artwork by Andrew Jones.

Give it a try

Using the Divine Proportion composition tool

- 1 Choose **Canvas** menu ► **Compositions** ► **Show Divine Proportion**.
- 2 To access the Divine Proportion palette, choose **Window** menu ► **Show Divine Proportion**.

New! Layout Grid: The new Layout Grid composition tool divides the canvas into equal sections. Similar to the Divine Proportion composition tool, the Layout Grid helps artists visually arrange the canvas or a photo prior to drawing or painting. Artists can choose from three preset Layout Grids: the Rule of Thirds, 3 × 5, or 5 × 5. In addition, users can customize the Layout Grid to virtually any configuration of their choice.



The new Layout Grid composition tool helps artists visually arrange their canvas.

Enhanced! Photo Painting System: The enhanced Photo Painting System makes it easier than ever for photographers to create beautiful paintings from photos. With Corel Painter X, new controls provide users with more options when creating an underpainting. In addition, the new Smart Stroke Painting option uses brush strokes that dynamically adhere to the forms of the original photo.

To see the capabilities of the Photo Painting System in action, follow the *Give it a try* instructions in the next three sections, which describe the Underpainting, Auto-Painting, and Restoration palettes.

The enhanced Underpainting palette

Historically, an underpainting was used to establish the overall color values for a painting. Similarly, the Underpainting palette lets users prepare a photo for cloning — the first step in transforming a photo into a painting. Users can adjust the photo's contrast, lightness, or saturation and add a decorative edge effect, such as a rectangular, circular, or jagged vignette.

With Corel Painter X, the Underpainting palette has been enhanced to include color schemes based on various media styles, such as Impressionist, Classical, Modern, Watercolor, Sketchbook, and Chalk Drawing. In addition, users can now choose a color scheme that matches the colors of any opened image.



The Underpainting palette helps users prepare a photo for cloning.

Give it a try

Using the Underpainting palette

- 1 Choose **File** menu ► **Open**, choose an image from the Open (Mac OS) or Select Image (Windows) dialog box, and click **Open**.
- 2 On the Underpainting palette, choose **Modern Scheme** from the **Color Scheme** pop-up menu.
- 3 From the **Photo Enhance** pop-up menu, choose **Increase Contrast**.

Give it a try

- 4 Adjust the **Smart Blur** slider to **36%**.
High-contrast areas maintain more detail than low-contrast areas.
- 5 Next, add a decorative border to your cloned image. From the **Edge Effect** pop-up menu, choose **Jagged Vignette**.
- 6 Click **Apply** to set the options that you've chosen.
- 7 Before proceeding to the instructions for the Auto-Painting palette, click **Quick Clone**.
A clone of your original image is created.

The enhanced Auto-Painting palette

The Auto-Painting palette lets users transform a photograph into a painting by automatically applying random paint strokes that vary in stroke type, direction, and pressure. Users choose the type of brush stroke, and adjust the preset options to determine how the brush interacts with the canvas.

With Corel Painter X, the Auto-Painting palette has been enhanced to provide the new Smart Stroke Painting option, which uses brush strokes that follow the forms of the original photo. When enabled, the Smart Stroke Painting option dynamically changes brush size, stroke length, and pressure based on the detail and focal areas of the original photo.





The Auto-Painting palette helps users transform a photo into a stunning painting.

Give it a try

Using the Auto-Painting palette

- 1 With the clone of your image still open, enable the **Smart Stroke Painting** and **Smart Settings** check boxes on the Auto-Painting palette.
- 2 To set the speed of the brush strokes, adjust the **Speed** slider to **75%**.

Give it a try

- 3 Click the **Play**  button.
Brush strokes are automatically applied to the clone.
- 4 When you're satisfied with the painting, or if you want to adjust the settings further, click the **Stop**  button.
You are now ready to use the Restoration palette to bring back some of the photo's original detail.

The Restoration palette

The Restoration palette allows users to touch up their painting manually with one of two special brushes that use the original photographic detail to “restore” image areas, such as facial features.



The Restoration palette is great for restoring original detail from the cloned photo.

Give it a try

Using the Restoration palette

- 1 On the Restoration palette, click one of the following buttons:
 - **Soft Edge Cloner Brush** — activates the Soft Edge Cloner brush variant, which restores detail gradually
 - **Hard Edge Cloner Brush** — activates the Straight Cloner brush variant, which restores detail quickly with a few brush strokes
- 2 Adjust the **Brush Size** slider.
- 3 Paint over the area in which you want to restore detail.

New! Match Palette effect: The new Match Palette effect lets artists match the color and intensity between two images. If you want to change an image's color scheme, you can now open an image that features your desired color scheme and use the Match Palette effect to bring the desired color scheme to the image you want to change. The Match Palette effect includes controls for color, color variation, brightness, brightness variation, and intensity.

New! Universal Mixer palette: With Corel Painter X, artists have greater control over color selection when using Artists' Oils brushes, RealBristle brushes, or any other bristle-type brush. For multicolor selection, the new Universal Mixer palette gives artists better control over color blending between the Mixer palette and the canvas.

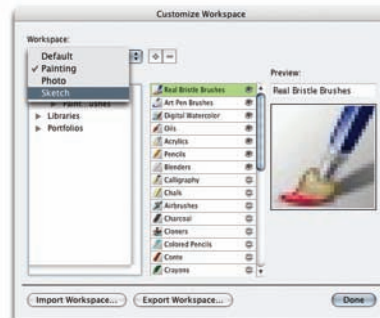
Performance and Productivity

Corel Painter X introduces new tools that increase performance and streamline workflows for creative professionals. This is the fastest version of Corel Painter ever, as application performance, speed, and stability have improved dramatically.

Depending on individual system hardware, Corel Painter X users can expect up to five times faster startup performance. Plus, brush engine performance is 35% faster, opening RIFF files is two times faster, rendering effects is two times faster, running scripts is 25% faster, and file saving is now up to 40% faster.

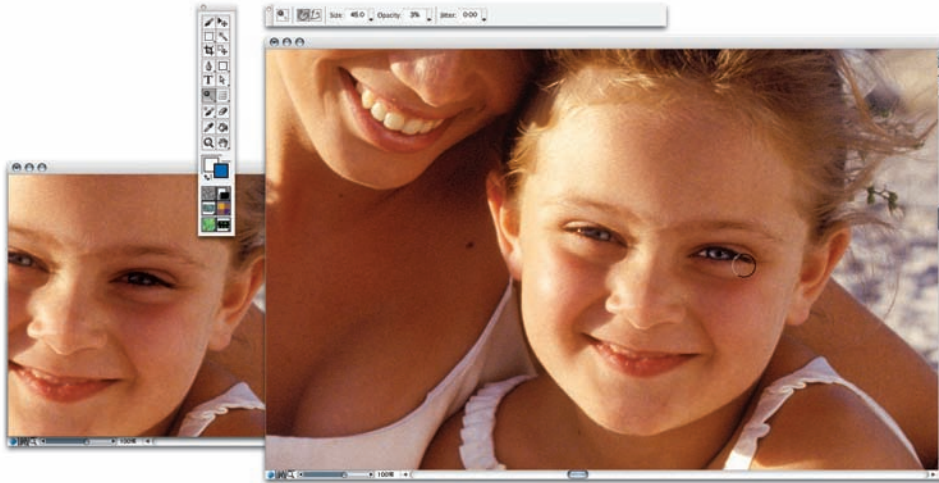
New! Universal binary: With support for Universal binary specifications, Corel Painter X is optimized for use on both Intel- and PowerPC®-based Mac computers.

New! Workspace Manager: With the new Workspace Manager, Corel Painter X makes it easy to share or switch between customized workspaces. For example, to suit specific workflows in a professional environment, workspaces may be customized to offer only tools relevant to sketching, photography, and painting. For learning purposes, the Workspace Manager is also useful for educators who want to streamline available tools to suit curriculum.



The new Workspace Manager makes it easy to share custom workspaces.


New! Dodge and Burn tools: With Corel Painter X, dodge and burn capabilities have been improved with the addition of two new image enhancement tools to the toolbox. The Dodge tool lets artists lighten, or overexpose, specific areas of an image. Conversely, the Burn tool lets artists darken, or underexpose, specific areas of an image. Artists often use dodging or burning to prepare a photo for painting.



The new Dodge tool lets users lighten specific areas of an image.

Give it a try

Using the Dodge tool

- 1 Choose **File** menu ► **Open**, choose an image from the Open (Mac OS) or Select Image (Windows) dialog box, and click **Open**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Dodge**  tool.
- 3 Use the property bar to adjust any of the following brush settings:
 - **Size** – controls the size of the brush
 - **Opacity** – controls the lightness of the brush stroke on the canvas
 - **Jitter** – controls the appearance of random dabs outside the brush stroke
- 4 Paint on the canvas in the area that you want to lighten.

Enhanced! Color Management: Corel Painter X includes an enhanced Color Management System, which ensures accurate color reproduction between devices and print jobs. In previous versions, users had to consider Color Management for each new project. Now, they only have to set up their Color Management options once, and Corel Painter X retains those settings until further adjustments are made. With support for industry standard ICC4.0 color profiles, Corel Painter X lets artists focus specifically on their work.

Compatibility

Corel Painter X fits into the workflow of creative professionals in various industries. Whether it's the latest operating systems from Apple or Microsoft, industry-standard software, or hardware that digital artists rely on every day, Corel Painter X delivers dependable compatibility.

New! Windows Vista™ support: Corel Painter X is designed to run on the latest Microsoft operating system, Windows Vista.

Enhanced! Mac OS® X support: As the Mac OS platform has evolved, Corel Painter has kept pace so that artists can take advantage of everything the Mac OS has to offer. Corel Painter X supports the latest operating system from Apple and also provides built-in support for the Spotlight™ software utility.

Enhanced! Adobe® Photoshop® support: With Corel Painter, layer behavior is very similar to Adobe® Photoshop®, which makes moving files between Photoshop and Corel Painter simple. Files saved to the Photoshop (PSD) file format open in Corel Painter, with layer masks, alpha channels, and layer sets (groups) maintained. For Corel Painter X, enhancements include easier layer grouping and combining, and improved support for layer merge modes. Corel Painter X also supports Photoshop plug-ins for Mac OS X.

Enhanced! Wacom® support: Wacom pen tablets and pens have long been staples in the creative professional's toolbox. With Corel Painter X, artists can use the entire Wacom product line — including the Cintiq 21 UX interactive pen display, the Intuos®3 pen tablet, and the Wacom® 6D Art Pen. In particular, the new RealBristle Painting System was developed to take full advantage of Wacom's 6D Art Pen. Combined with the pen's six dimensions of control, Corel Painter X takes realism to new heights.



*Corel Painter X and a Wacom tablet bring true expression from the artist's hand to the canvas.
Artwork by Chet Phillips.*

Learning

With a printed User Guide, training videos from Painter Master Jeremy Sutton, online Help, and courseware specifically designed for educators, getting started with Corel Painter has never been easier.

New! Printed User Guide: With Corel Painter X, users get a printed User Guide which provides information and fast solutions.

New! Jeremy Sutton training videos: A new collection of step-by-step training videos created by well-known Painter Master Jeremy Sutton is included to provide guidance and inspiration.

New! “Painter on the ‘Net” tab in Welcome book: The new “Painter on the ‘Net” tab provides links to Painter community resources online, including Tips & Tricks, tutorials, and special offers. Launching on startup, the Welcome book makes it easy for Corel Painter users to get down to the job at hand. In addition to the “Painter on the ‘Net” tab, the Welcome book also provides quick access to recently used files, brush and color management settings, and showcases artwork from renowned Corel Painter Masters.



The Welcome book

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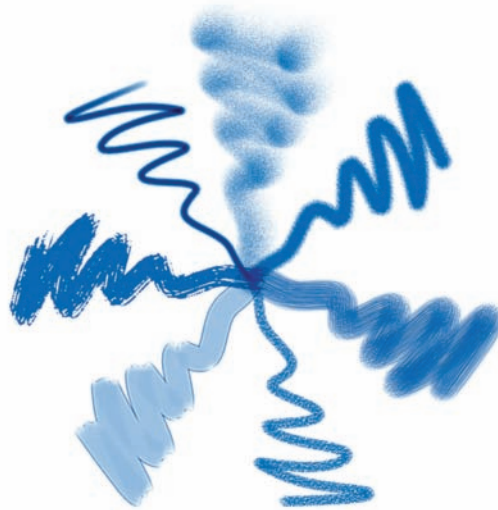
Heather Michelle Bjoershol

The Essence of Corel® Painter™

Corel Painter X users continue to enjoy many features that have been the cornerstones of the application for years. The following features let creative professionals leverage their natural talents and techniques to create original works of art, distinguishing Corel Painter from other applications.

Brushes

Brushes have always been the heart and soul of Corel Painter. There are more than 30 brush categories, ranging from Crayons, Chalk, and Charcoal to Acrylics, Watercolor, Liquid Ink, Artists' Oils, and the new RealBristle. While most brush categories mirror the look and feel of traditional brushes, others offer users a one-of-a-kind creative tool.



Brushes are organized into distinct categories, each featuring a multitude of variants.

The following brush categories are just a sample of those available to Corel Painter X customers.

Artists' Oils Painting System: The Artists' Oils Painting System enables users to apply paint blends created in the Mixer palette directly onto images in the document window. Each brush dab loads the brush variant with a finite amount

of oil. As the oil runs out, the brush stroke becomes fainter. Brush strokes interact with any paint already on the canvas just as they would with natural media.



Artists' Oils brush stroke

Watercolor: Watercolor brush variants produce natural-looking watercolor effects. Almost all brush variants in the Watercolor category interact with the canvas texture. For most of these variants, stylus pressure affects the width of the brush stroke. As with traditional-media watercolor brushes, greater pressure on the brush widens a stroke and less pressure narrows a stroke.



Watercolor brush stroke

Chalk: Chalk brush variants produce the thick, rich texture of natural chalk sticks and cover with strokes that interact with the paper grain. The opacity is linked to stylus pressure.



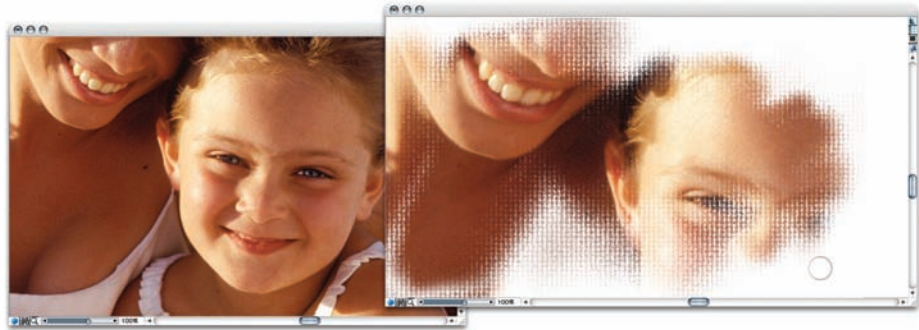
Chalk brush stroke

Image Hose: The Image Hose behaves like a brush, but it sprays images instead of applying paint. Users can also load their own image or select from the library included in the application.



Image Hose brush stroke

Cloners: Painting with a cloner brush is similar to painting with any Corel Painter brush, except that cloner brush variants take their color information from a clone source, such as a pattern or another image, instead of from the Colors palette. Some cloner brush variants reproduce a source image directly. Other cloner brush variants reproduce a source image with low opacity and soft edges, or use paper grain and specialized dabs, for particular media effects.



Cloner brush

Brush Controls

Brush Control palettes provide quick, easy access to all brush settings and controls. Making on-the-fly changes to brush settings and variables is as simple as dragging a slider — without any disruption to workflow.

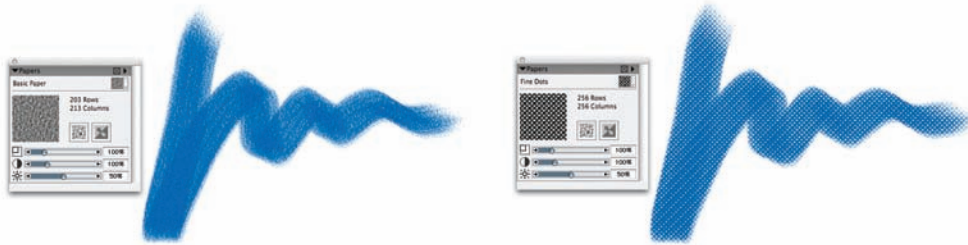
For example, the Boost slider, found in the General palette of the Brush Controls, instantly enhances brush speed. Just drag the slider and see brush performance accelerate.



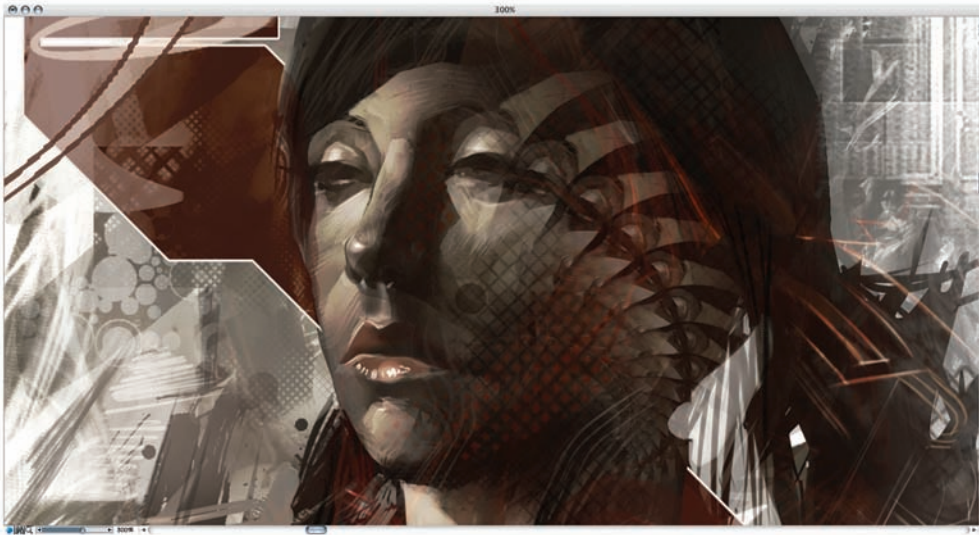
Brush Control palettes enable on-the-fly changes.

Textures

In the traditional art world, an artist's brush or drawing tool produces different results when applied to surfaces with different textures. Corel Painter allows users to control the texture of the canvas to achieve the results they would expect from conventional art media on a given surface. Brushes interact with paper grain, just as natural tools react with the texture of the surfaces beneath them. Textures can also be used to create special effects, such as rusted metal on an intergalactic spaceship or bark on a tree.



Many brush variants allow the paper texture to be seen through the brush stroke.



*Paper texture can help create special effects.
Artwork by Andrew Jones.*

Animation

Corel Painter has an impressive array of animation features. The Onion Skinning feature enables users to view previous and future frames while working on the current frame. The Rotoscoping feature enables users to paint and modify a single frame of an existing movie. Animated movies can be saved as animated GIFs, QuickTime® movies, or AVI movies.



*Gitanjali Rao's "Printed Rainbow" animated film.
Winner of three "Best Short Film" awards at Cannes 2006.¹
www.printedrainbow.com*

Support for Industry-Standard File Formats

Corel Painter lets users open and save a variety of file formats, including Adobe Photoshop (PSD), Corel® Paint Shop Pro® (PSP), TIFF (CMYK & RGB), Windows Bitmap (BMP), PC Paintbrush (PCX), TARGA® (TGA), GIF, JPEG, Mac PICT, QuickTime (MOV), and Video for Windows (AVI) files. Users can also save files in encapsulated PostScript® (EPS) format.

1. Rao's Cannes 2006 awards include the Kodak Discovery Award — Best Short Film; the Young Critics Award — Best Short Film; and the Rail d'Or — Best Short Film.

6



Micah Henrie

Summary of New or Enhanced Features

The following is a summary of the new or enhanced features in Corel Painter X.

Creativity

- The new **RealBristle Painting System** faithfully replicates the natural movement and behavior of the artist's brush against the canvas.
 - With the new **RealBristle brush category**, artists can choose from **16 new brush variants**, ranging from smooth and silky oils to rigid dry impasto and dynamic fan brushes.
 - From the shape of the brush tip to the rigidity of the bristles, the new **RealBristle palette** gives artists complete control over the dynamics of the default RealBristle brushes.
 - In addition to customizing the default RealBristle brushes, the new **RealBristle palette** lets artists transform the existing Static Bristle, Camel Hair, Bristle Spray, or Blend Camel brushes into their own RealBristle brushes.
- At the planning stage, artists and photographers can use the new **Divine Proportion composition tool**, which is based on a ratio used as an aesthetic guide throughout history.
- The new **Layout Grid composition tool** also helps artists and photographers arrange the canvas prior to drawing or painting.
- The enhanced **Photo Painting System** makes it easier than ever to transform photos into stunning paintings — in three easy steps.
 - With new **Color Schemes**, the enhanced Underpainting palette now offers predefined styles or lets photographers match colors between different images.
 - The enhanced Underpainting palette includes new industry-standard **Photo Enhancement controls**, such as Brightness, Contrast, Hue, and Saturation, that give photographers precise command when preparing a photo for Auto-Painting.
 - On the enhanced Auto-Painting palette, the new **Smart Stroke Painting options** dynamically change brush size, stroke length, and pressure based on the detail and focal areas of the original photo. With Smart Stroke Painting, it's never been easier to turn a photo into a hand-painted masterpiece.

- The **new speed control** on the enhanced Auto-Painting palette lets photographers adjust the pace of the brush strokes, enabling better control over the level of detail in their painting.
- Artists and photographers can easily duplicate the color and intensity of an image with the new **Match Palette effect**.
- The new **Universal Mixer palette** gives artists greater control over color blending between the Mixer palette and the canvas.

Performance and Productivity

- With new **Universal binary support**, Corel Painter X is optimized for use on both Intel- and PowerPC-based Mac computers.
- For professionals and educators, the new **Workspace Manager** makes it easy to share customized workspaces, including custom palettes, brushes, paper textures, and libraries.
- The Corel Painter X toolbox includes the new **Dodge and Burn tools**, improving the capabilities of these image enhancement effects.
- The enhanced **Color Management System** retains settings between Corel Painter X sessions, so that users can now set it and forget it.
- With enhanced **Session memory**, Corel Painter X also retains many other settings between sessions, including grid settings, tracker settings, erasers, and many more.
- Corel Painter X provides new **Secure Saving and Auto-Backup**, which give more assurance that you will not lose your work in case of a power outage or system crash.

Compatibility

- Corel Painter X is designed to run on the latest Microsoft® operating system, **Windows Vista™**.
- In addition to working with the latest Apple operating system, Corel Painter X includes built-in support for Spotlight.
- With **enhanced Adobe® Photoshop® support** that includes easier layer grouping and combining, and improved support for layer merge modes, Corel Painter X users can more effectively use Painter with Photoshop.
- Corel Painter X provides **enhanced Wacom® support** so that users can take advantage of the entire Wacom product line — including the Cintiq 21 UX interactive pen display, the Intuos®3 pen tablet, and the Wacom® 6D Art Pen.

Learning

- A **printed User Guide** provides Corel Painter X customers with information and fast solutions.
- A new series of **tutorials created by Painter Masters** helps Corel Painter X users learn from recognized industry professionals.
- A new collection of **training videos created by Painter Master Jeremy Sutton** offers step-by-step guidance and inspiration.
- The new **"Painter on the 'Net" tab** in the Welcome book provides links to online resources for the Painter community, including Tips & Tricks and tutorials.
- The **updated Welcome book** also showcases artwork by more than thirty Painter Masters from around the world.
- A **redesigned Painter Canvas eNewsletter** provides monthly tutorials and other great learning resources.

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Media Contact North America

Jessica Gould
Senior Communications Manager
Corel Corporation
613-728-0826 x 5405
jessica.gould@corel.com

Media Contact for International

Deborah Thomas
Senior International PR Manager
Corel UK Limited
+44 (0) 1628 589850
deborah.thomas@corel.com

Corel Corporation

1600 Carling Ave.
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1Z 8R7

Corel UK Limited

Sapphire Court
Bell Street
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 1BU
United Kingdom

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www.corel.com