Painting & Drawing

Paints & crayons without the mess...

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Painting apps

Introduction
There are a wide variety of painting apps available for the iPad. Too many to count. Too many to review.

when reviewing painting apps one would need to consider the ability level of the user, ease of use and cost.

This document will not explore each of the reviewed apps in detail. Instead key features of each will be highlighted and annotated.

The best way to learn about painting on the iPad is to try one or two apps and see which best meets your needs, or those of your students.
Art Rage is a full featured app that has an excellent pedigree in terms of its predecessor on the Mac platform.

It is easy to learn and gives the user a good of control over brush type, transparency and layering.

Precise control over brush settings is available for the user. **Brush diameter** and **pressure** can be set using the sliders illustrated at right.

**Layering** or **blending** allows artists to paint different elements on specific layers that can hide and show as needed.

Images can also be imported from the Photos app for use as backgrounds or reference images.
A range of presets is available for the user. The presets vary from one painting tool to the next.

New presets can be created and fine tuned by the user.

A diverse array of painting tools are available for the user including brushes, rollers, palette knives, pencils, crayons, air-brush and paint-bucket.

The colour palette tool is easy to use and gives the user a great deal of control of colour intensity and appearance.

Highly recommended.
Inspire Pro is an easy to use app with a straightforward interface and a range of easy to use tools.

Selecting the **stroke tool** at the foot of the screen gives the artist over the brush stroke and length.

Blends, tapering, plot and paint load can all be finely tuned with use of the slider controls.
**Individual brushes** can also be fine tuned by accessing the brush tool at the foot of the screen.

A rich colour palette is available to the user. An easily accessed range of recently used and favourite colours are also displayed on the colour palette.
Procreate is a simple painting tool with a rather unfortunate choice of name.

It has a worthy array of tools that are easily applied.

The color picker is easy to use.

The artist has access to a rich array of brushes and each brush can be modified to meet the specific needs of the user. Brush control can also be achieved with two vertical sliders always available on the right hand side of the painting canvas.
Sketch Book Pro is an impressive painting app and a favourite among the student population. Highly recommended.

The app provides users with an amazing array of paintbrushes, stamps and thumbnail graphics to employ as paint.

The colour picker is easy to use and available in the same pane as the paint brush selector.
The image on the left should provide an idea of the array of paint brushed available for use.

Their use is only limited by the creative instinct of the iPad user.

Sketch Book Pro also offers a blending or layering tool so that users can paint differing subject on separate canvases. They are able to hide and show the separate canvases in order to review their work.

Recently used brushes and colours are available on the left and right hand side of the canvas. These palettes can be hidden from view.
Art Set is a no-nonsense app that is also favoured among students due to its simplicity and intuitive interface. Tools and colours are available from pop-out drawers easily accessed by the user. Recent colours and tools are remembered by the app so that the artist can readily access them. Highly recommended.