

Corel® Painter™ enriches learning and artistry for animation students

"I've had students come in scared to death of computers. I let them play with Corel Painter for an hour and they come out revved!"

Joyce Ryan
Department Chair for Media Arts and Animation
Art Institute of Atlanta



ENTERPRISE

Art Institute of Atlanta

CHALLENGE

To instruct post-secondary students in animation techniques while encouraging them to develop an individual artistic style

SOLUTION

Corel® Painter™

BENEFITS

- Tutorial support
- 3D capabilities
- High-resolution outputs

The Story

Joyce Ryan is an animation veteran. She's been an animation artist and part owner of an animation production company for 30 years. She has used Corel® Painter™ extensively to produce television commercials and other award-winning presentations.

Ryan now shares her expertise and passion for animation with students at the Atlanta Art Institute, where she chairs the Media Arts and Animation Department.

The Challenge

"A lot of new students are wary of computers," Ryan says. "They like to draw but have concerns about whether they'll be able to do it on a computer. With Painter and a pressure-sensitive Wacom tablet, I can take them from fear to addiction in no time!"

Many professors are wary of computers, too. Some faculty members have spent 20 years developing their watercolor or painting techniques. In Ryan's words, "they have an investment in not switching to the computer."

Ryan recently delivered a presentation on the wonders of Painter to her colleagues at the Art Institute. "They were knocked out. It was very exciting for them," she says.

The Solution

Corel Painter allows artists to be artists, Ryan says. "The whole idea behind Painter is to give them a paint box—with watercolor washes, chalk that acts like real chalk, oils that acts like real oils."

Unlike vector-based programs, which impose a standard, impersonal look to artwork, Corel Painter allows students to experiment with their own artistic look and style, Ryan says. "I encourage them to not limit themselves to vector-based programs, to explore Painter's painterly effects."

Ryan highly values Corel Painter as an instructional tool. She says it's an excellent instrument for teaching students how to animate. "As a teacher, I can use Corel Painter to illustrate so many principles: 3D lighting, compositing, raster versus vector approaches, resolution issues, classical illustration techniques, basic animation techniques, photographic treatments and sophisticated special effects."



The Benefits

The 3D capabilities of Corel Painter are remarkable, Ryan says. Take texture mapping as an example. An artist creating a three-dimensional model of a marble floor can paint a marble motif in Corel Painter, then export a seamless texture to be used in a 3D program.

The 3D lighting feature is also excellent, Ryan says. "You can use Painter's Impasto brush stroke—a thick textural stroke—then change the lighting on it to make it look more or less 3D, adjust the light to different angles, apply different colors of light, or make it more or less reflective. Imagine that!"

The 3D type features are remarkable, too, Ryan states. They allow users to set elevation, width, lighting and reflection. "It's beautiful and it's real-time. You don't have to buy a 3D program to do it."

Unlike vector-based programs that are resolution-independent, Corel Painter—which is pixel-based—allows users a technique to blow up images and avoid graininess. "Students can set up a script to paint a small image—so they can go at a natural, swift pace—then set the program to play back and repaint the image at a higher resolution. It's very clever," Ryan says.

Corel Painter has been invaluable in Ryan's personal work as an animator. For a recent project she undertook for PBS, it was the secret to success. "I had one week to create the paintings for a five-minute moving storyboard, shoot the animation and get it to New York. These were complex paintings. It would have been impossible for me to do this amount of work without the tools in Painter."

The clients were delighted with Ryan's work, so much that they requested the original paintings. When Ryan asked if they'd like them in Windows® or Macintosh® format, they were shocked. "They said, 'What do you mean? We can see the paper grain.' I replied, 'These are virtual paintings. I have thousands of paper grains to choose from.' They couldn't believe it."

Customer Information

Ryan's award-winning animation, "Glimmer" can be viewed online at www.dagnabit.com.

Samples of her paintings can be seen at www.mindspring.com/~joyryan.

"With Painter and a pressure-sensitive Wacom tablet, I can take them from fear to addiction in no time!"

She can also create step-by-step, live action tutorials. "The software allows me to record the process of creating a drawing or painting. It records every brush stroke. I can play back the painting or slow it down step by step by exporting it as a multi-frame QuickTime tutorial. It's an incredible educational tool."

Corel Painter is an ideal tool for visualizing animation for creating pre-production animatics, Ryan says. "It's great for storyboarding and particularly useful for rotoscoping. Its scripting function can take live action footage and make it look like a moving oil painting! Animators love to draw. Drawing on a computer with other software programs may have been frustrating for them. With Corel Painter and a Wacom tablet, it's a lot of fun. I have found no more responsive painting program on the market."

COREL™
www.corel.com

To find out more about this product or any other Corel product, please visit www.corel.com/allproducts or call our sales office at 1-877-652-6735.