

# **Artist Studio Pro Gold V23 - User Guide**

## Welcome

Welcome to Artist Studio Pro Gold, your essential digital assistant provided by Artist Studio Pro. This application is designed to bridge the gap between your digital reference photos and your physical palette, offering accurate, reliable color mixes using the pigments you actually own.

## Installation

Artist Studio Pro Gold is a portable, high-performance application. No complicated installer is required.

### Extract the Zip File

- Right-click the Artist Studio Pro Gold final.zip file you downloaded.
- Select Extract All... and choose a permanent location (e.g., your Desktop or Documents folder).

### Run Setup

- Open the extracted folder.
- Double-click the file named Setup.bat.
- You might see a quick black window flash—this is normal. It is configuring your system.

### Launch the Application

- You will now see a Gold Palette Knife icon on your Desktop named "Artist Studio Pro Gold."
- Double-click this icon to start the app.

Note: If you ever move the folder to a new location, just run Setup.bat again to update the shortcut.

## Core Features

### Accurate Color Mixing

The heart of the application is the Mix Panel.

- Sample Any Color: Click anywhere on your reference image to sample a color.
- Real Pigment Matches: The app analyzes the color and immediately suggests:
- Recommended Mixes: Precise recipes using only the 559 professional swatches from your library (e.g., Burnt Umber + Cadmium Yellow). It never suggests a mix you can't make.
- Nearest Single Pigment: The closest match from a single tube of paint.

### Studio Log & Timer

Keep track of your creative sessions.

- Timer: A compact, unintrusive timer sits at the top of your Studio Log. Click Start when you begin painting and Pause when you take a break.
- Session Records: The timer automatically logs your duration into your session notes, helping you track exactly how long a piece takes to complete.

#### Visual Tools

- Posterize: Simplify complex photos into clear value shapes (2-8 levels). Great for seeing the big picture.
- Grayscale Toggle: Instantly check values by switching your reference to black & white.
- Proportional Grid: Overlay a custom grid on your image to help with accurate drawing and composition.

#### Palette Management

- My Palette: Go to the Palette Setup tab to check off the pigments you own. The mixing algorithm will only suggest recipes using the tubes you have selected.
- Smart Filtering: Quickly find pigments by color family (Yellows, Blues, Earths, etc.).

#### Troubleshooting

##### Shortcut Issues

"The shortcut isn't working/icon is blank"

- Simply open the application folder and double-click Setup.bat again. This script is designed to self-repair any shortcut or icon issues automatically.

##### Image Loading

"I can't find my image"

- You can drag and drop any image file (JPG, PNG) directly onto the main canvas area to load it instantly.