

June 2014

S P A R K

Ignite the Creativity

BATTLE
OF THE
ARTS:
VOTE NOW!

5 ART
ACCOUNTS ON
INSTAGRAM THAT
YOU SHOULD
CHECK OUT!

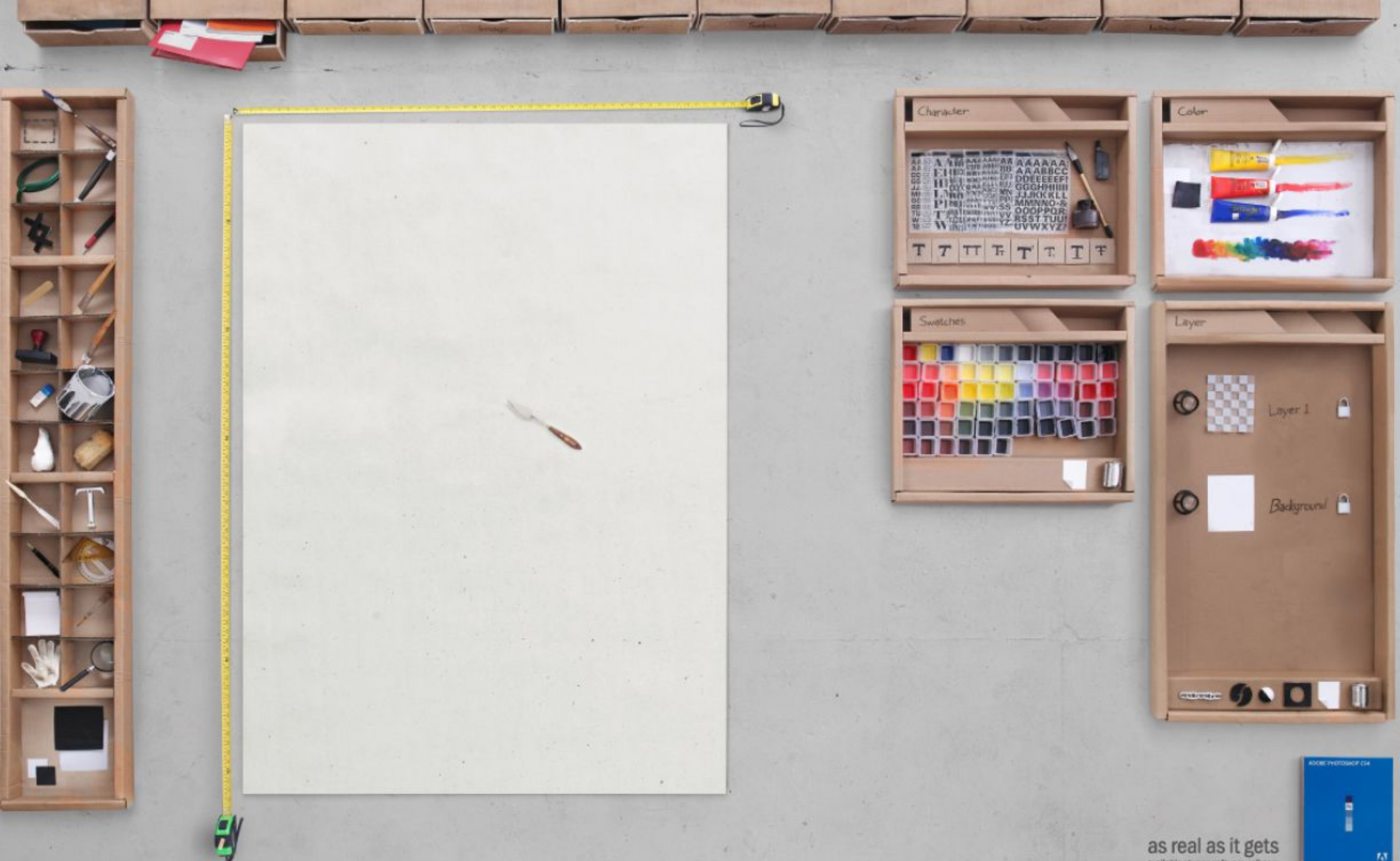
**CAN
YOU
NOT?**
THINGS THAT
YOU SHOULD
NEVER MAKE IN
ART!

WHICH KIND OF
ARTIST ARE YOU?
TAKE THE QUIZ!

TIP SLIPS!

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EXCLUSIVE:
AN INTERVIEW
WITH MICHELLE
CZAJKOWSKI:
AUTHOR OF
AVA'S DEMON



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Editor's letter :

Welcome to Spark Magazine's first issue. We have all worked extremely hard on this magazine. There are many articles and segments for you readers to check out.

We have included segments such as: Tip Slips, Can you not, What kind of artist are you , and Battle of the arts. We also have some very fascinating articles covering youtube artists to see. We have also included a "Art Program Review." Our feature article is an interview with an extremely talented artist, named Michelle Czajkowski.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of Spark Magazine.

Jusleyri Ventura



Where art meets application



Tip Slips

by Jenny Nguyen

Looking for tips to improve your art? Or are you searching for inspiration to take down that wall of art block? Don't you fret, I'm here to give you tips on how to improve your art and to help you get over art block and find something to draw! Art is super (and I mean SUPER) hard to master, so if you really want to get better in art, go on and read! (Take notes!)

Listen to your favorite music! Music is calming, hardcore, gentle, and fun to listen to. It can make you feel certain moods, and that is necessary for getting over art block. It can influence what you do, and maybe it'll help you find something you want to draw! You can listen from a great variety of artists, from Lorde to Bruno Mars, or from Bastille to Iggy Azalea, just to name a few.

Use references or guidelines! It doesn't hurt to have someone or something help you with your art. You can use someone's art as a guide to draw something you might not know how to, just as long as you give them credit when publishing your art! You can also draw light guidelines, to help with placement of certain body parts or things. It never hurts to take the easy way out of art.

Rejection comes to everyone. Ignore other people's negativity, or at least take it with a grain of salt. Only those who push past rejection ever have the chance at being successful. Choose to have confidence in yourself—as an artist, you'll probably need it.

Be more versatile with the way you draw. It's completely fine if you stick to one style and a specific set of medium, but don't use it for the rest of your art career. Be more flexible with what and how you draw. You can draw cartoons with pencils, and paint realism with watercolor the next day. Being flexible and familiar with all different kinds of art and mediums can help you if you're seeking jobs with graphic art and design.

Take a walk. Yes, I said take a walk. Nature is one of the most beautiful things on earth, so why not draw that? Take in the scenery and splendor, it might spark a little dynamite that'll break down that wall of art block (no pun intended)! You can paint the kids playing soccer on your block, or sketch the peonies growing in your neighbor's garden. Finding inspiration is easy when there's a whole scene outside for you to draw.

Make sure you have the right medium. Just having the wrong medium can screw everything up. Make sure you're comfortable with what you're working with, so that your pieces don't look forced, and that they look drawn with ease.

That's it for this edition of Tip Slips! Be sure to buy our June issue to check out more tips on art and how to improve! Thanks for reading, and ignite the creativity!



Can You Not

by Jenny Nguyen

You've seen Tip Slips, and now it's time for Can You Not! This is where we tell you what NOT to do, and trust me, you should never do these things in art. It irks me (as I am a hobbyist artist myself), and I'm pretty sure it irks other artists too. So here's what NOT to do in art!

Never trace other people's artwork! Most readers already know better not to trace artwork, but I'm just putting it out there: please do not trace art! Tracing art is theft, because the work isn't yours. Tracing is a problem in the art world, and it irritates many artists too. If you don't want to be a bother in your art community, please, for the love of God, do not trace artwork! I used to trace artwork when I was a beginner artist, and I have regretted it. I've gotten hate and judged, so if you don't want to face the same consequences that I did, do not trace artwork.

Be proportional! I have seen this problem with many beginner artists. Proportion is key to having great looking art. You don't want a big head with a microscopic body! Work at anatomy, it's a great way to improve at art.

Don't move into advanced art tools so quickly! A beginner artist on Instagram has Paint Tool SAI, a graphic tablet, Copic markers, and commissions available on her DeviantART page. I have absolutely no problem with that, but it bothers me that she's a beginner! A BEGINNER. Please don't purchase such advanced tools so early into your art career. It's better if you have experience with art first, so you can move into the more advanced stuff.

Don't compare yourself with other artists! This will bring down your self-esteem to a flat line. You're supposed to be confident in your art, not shameful about it. Flaunt your art (even if it's imperfect) and ignore the negativity. Boost your self-esteem by practicing and getting better at what you love the most: art!

That's it for this edition of Can You Not! Grab our next issue to read more about what you shouldn't do in art. Ignite the creativity!



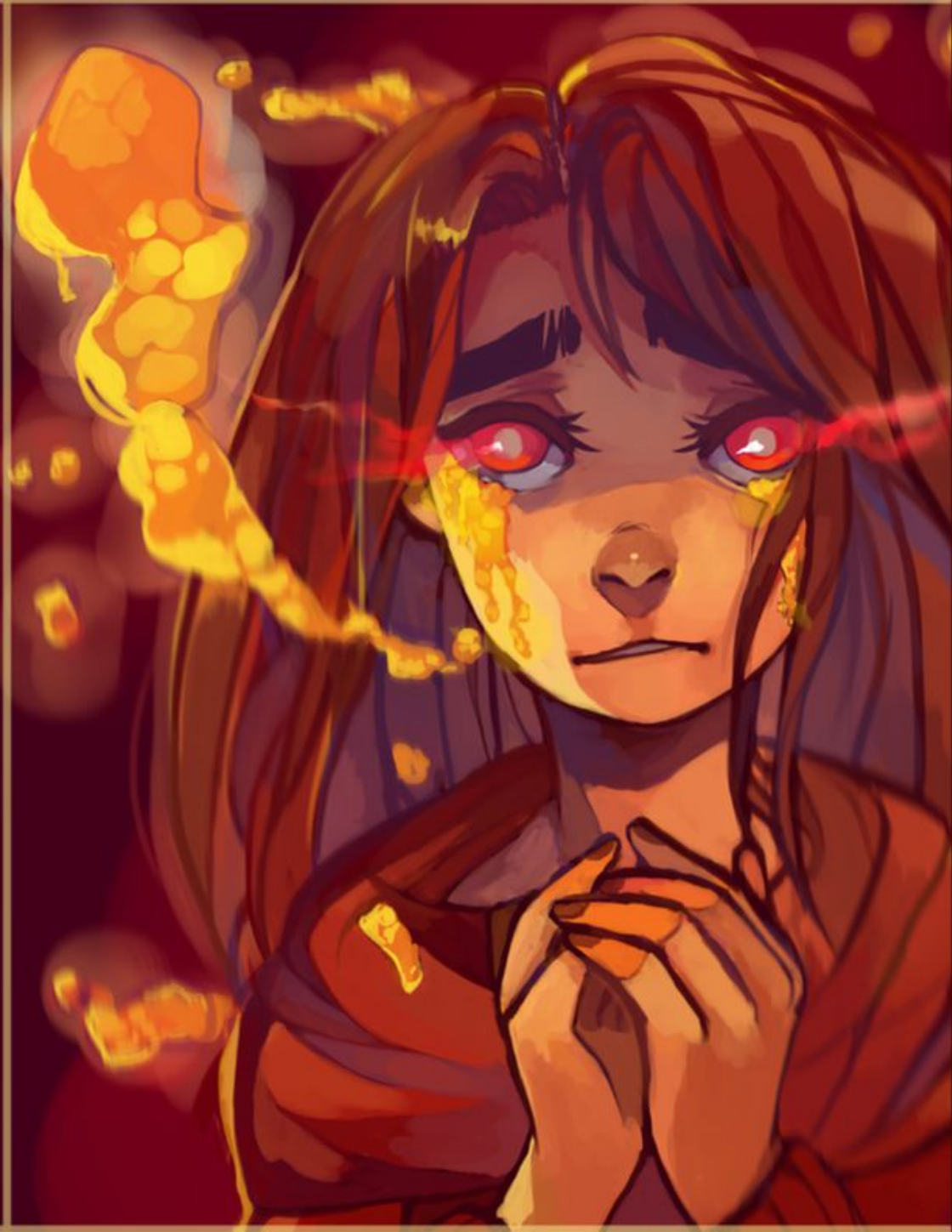
An interview with

Michelle Czajkowski

the author of "Ava's Demon"



Ava's demon is a web comic which began sometimes in 2012 by Michelle Czajkowski. It focuses on a 15 year old girl, named Ava Ire, who was born with a demon following her around. We got the chance to interview Ms. Czajkowski about art, and here are her answer.



1. What inspired you to become an artist?

I've always been able to draw and art has been the most important thing to me my whole life.

2. When did you start *Ava's Demon*?

I launched it around 2012 but have been writing it my whole life.

3. What advice do you have for young artists wanting to succeed with a career in art?

Stick to what you love and never stop drawing, don't let anyone tell you that you can't have a career doing something you love.

4. How would you describe your art style? Do you have any other art styles besides the one used in *Ava's Demon*?

I'm not sure! I just draw in the most comfortable way possible to me.

5. How do you define art?

Expressing yourself and using self-expression to communicate ideas important to you with the rest of the world.

6. How has art changed your life?

Art is my life, pretty much, I can't imagine myself without it.





Ava's Demon first draft



**AVA'S
DEMON**



Art Program Reviews

by Jenny Nguyen

Looking for some good art programs to use? Maybe you're a beginner artist searching for a free, but excellent program. Or maybe you're a hobbyist looking for something inexpensive to use. Here are 3 art programs I have selected for this occasion! I hope you find these reviews helpful!

GIMP – GIMP is a free art editor program that many artists I know use. Its interface is fairly simple to navigate, and when you first open it up, it feels like you're opening up a cheap alternative for Photoshop. It's actually quite similar to the expensive photo editor, with functions like Crop, Dodge/Burn, and more.

GIMP can be used to create digital art as well. It has different textured brushes and tools to enhance photos. However, understanding each and every tool is somewhat difficult to manage, so it'll take time for you to use GIMP to its full extent. Take some time to explore and navigate through GIMP.

GIMP is a great program to use to edit photos and to use as a cheap art program. We here at SPARK give it a big thumbs up!

Adobe Photoshop – Adobe Photoshop is widely popular among advanced artists. I feel very conflicted about it, in all honesty. I am a hobbyist artist and I don't like



advanced and difficult-to-navigate programs (in my opinion of course!) I prefer simple programs, and that's why Photoshop just didn't click with me.

Photoshop has a complex interface that is somewhat difficult to navigate. Some of the brushes there are not very useful, so I suggest purchasing or downloading a set of customized Photoshop brushes.

However, Photoshop does come with lots of handy tools, like Gradient and Spot Healing. Photoshop may be complicated, but it's pretty useful for photo retouching and editing!

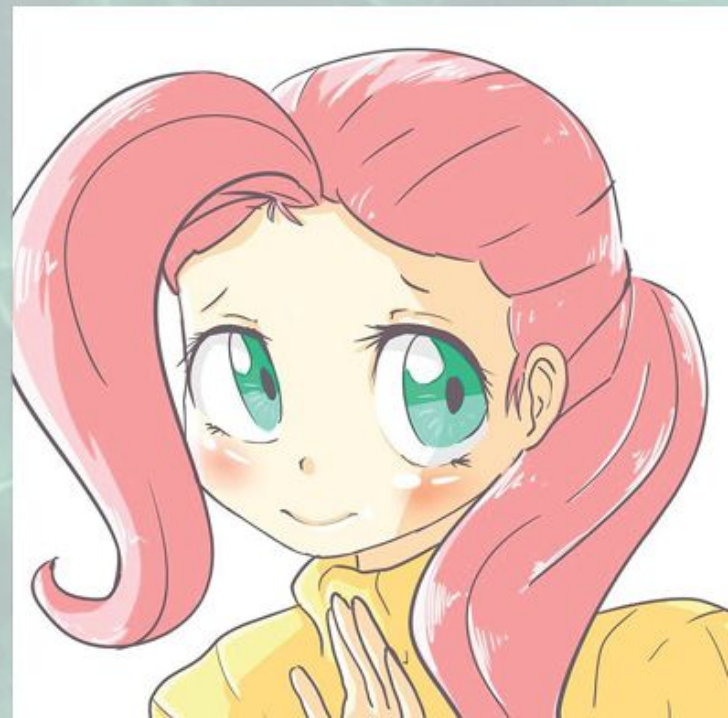
FireAlpaca – When it comes to art programs, Japan never fails to please. This Japanese-made art program is a free, and amazing art program, and is extremely simple to navigate.

It comes with basic brushes: a pen, a pencil, two airbrush brushes, a blur tool, a watercolor brush, a brush that comes with the program's logo, and an eraser. Of course, you can easily add new brushes by duplicating the selected brush and modifying it to your heart's content (I mean seriously, how do these people think of such things??) or by finding a transparent brush texture and using the newly-added bitmap brush feature. This program is my life in one software! Coloring and lineart is also fairly simple, and layers are easy to manage. I suggest you try it if looking for a (better) alternative to Paint Tool SAI.

Do you feel the same about these reviews? Are there some art programs you feel I should try?



Tell me! Drop us a line at our website www.sparkmagbusiness.com/spark and share your opinion! Be sure to read more reviews in our next issue. Ignite the creativity!



Youtube Artist *by Kathy Tran*

Sophie Chan:

Sophie Chan is a self-taught Manga artist who enjoys inspiring young artists to keep drawing. Sophie films tutorials on YouTube based on how to draw characters from movies, animes, books etc.... Sophie's YouTube channel has over 202,000 subscribers and over 18 Million views. Sophie's art is unique and different because in each of her tutorials she challenges herself with a certain level of difficulty because she believes that if one keeps drawing what's within one's comfort zone, he/she won't improve, she wants to showcase this through these tutorials. Sophie is also an inspirational artist due to the fact that she follows her own principle in my manga, which is to not be afraid of things you're not good at, but to conquer these fears. Sophie's style of art is mostly anime as she draws her own original Mangas. Overall, Sophie's artwork never seem to bore us with her great use and interpretation with soft pastels, color pencils, and Copic Markers. This is definitely one of my personal favorite artists on YouTube that I believe you should check out.



Sophie's Finished product of Levi from Attack on Titan

Mark Crilley's Pencil Drawing of Anna from Frozen



Mark Crilley:

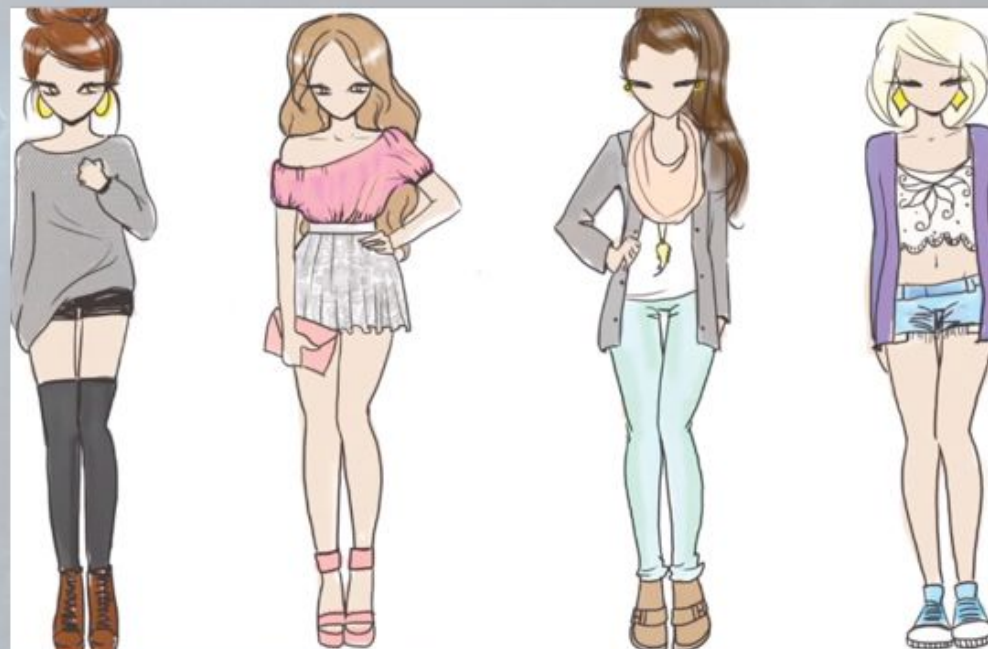
Mark Crilley is an author, and illustrator on YouTube who makes instructional videos on almost any art-related topic you can imagine. Mark has two how-to-draw books out now, "Mastering Manga" and "Mastering Manga 2." Both books instruct you on how to draw Manga style characters. Mark's YouTube channel has over 1.6 Million subscribers and over 210 Million views. Mark's YouTube videos consist of Realism Challenges, How To Draw, Drawing Time Lapses, Painting, and many more series based on his personal life and experience with art. Mark's style of art is mostly realism and comical as he grew up drawing his own original comics and throughout his teens he began to take interest in realism. His artwork is phenomenal in every way as he takes the simplest things to the next level. This is definitely a YouTube artist you don't want to skip out on.



Mistiarts:

Mistiq or known as Mina, is a Fashion Designer, Illustrator, and a Manga teacher from Serbia. Her YouTube channel has over 23,000 subscribers and over 1 Million views. What makes Mina's art so unique is that she incorporates the use of watercolor paint, and markers at the same time. It's a huge risk performing a task using watercolor paint and markers at the same as it may smudge, making her one of the most skillful YouTube artists out there. I consider Mina's art style to be more of a Manga style. Mina has probably got to be one of the most underrated artists there on YouTube and should definitely deserve more attention.

Mikaze Ai from Uta no Prince Sama



DebbysArts:

Deborah is an Italian Makeup Artist, and a Fashion Designer on YouTube who makes videos on Makeup Tutorials, Drawing Tutorials, and Covers of her favorite songs. Deborah has nearly 200,000 subscribers and over 12 Million views. Deborah incorporates her use of Fashion Designing to help her viewers draw characters from movies, books, and, etc... I personally consider Deborah's art style to be cartoonish and a bit comical as she is still beginning to take interest in Manga. Overall, you should definitely check out Deborah as her personality will draw you closer to her videos and artwork.

Creativity



PRISMACOLOR®

INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

You must see

by Kimberly Varela



@momo_blu (a.k.a. Amberly T-Morelli) is a 19 year old female who dwells in New York. This particular artist specializes in the work of animation. Amberly creates delightful, yet peculiar illustrations that absorb all of the observer's attention. The majority of her artwork is done digitally, although, from time to time T-Morelli uploads photos demonstrating some of her pieces traditionally done with pens, pencils, and etc. on paper. Amberly is extremely talented and clearly passionate in what she does. @momo_blu is definitely an art account on Instagram to check out!

Kristina Webb, the owner of @colour_me_creative, is a well known artist from New Zealand. She has drawn countless portraits for famous celebrities such as Cody Simpson, Lana Del Rey, Tyra Banks, and so on. Webb has also been interviewed on popular television programs before because of her outstanding gift that she practices. What makes Kristina's artwork so beautiful is how she transmits her thoughts on paper. She can transform anything from being plain and simple to unbelievably magnificent. The form in which she utilizes colors is absolutely striking. Webb blends the colors so precisely that they flow with each other naturally. At the exact moment the illustration and the colors beam with uniqueness while attracting the audience instantly. Of course @colour_me_creative is an art account on Instagram to see!



As a female student, at FullSail University Orlando, FL. with 19 years of age, @garbagegoddess without a doubt is an art account on Instagram that should totally be seen by millions! This artistic genius is intertwined in the field of Traditional Art. Her forte is mainly involved with portraying furry/anthro art, however, she also tinkers with surrealism and modern contemporary art. The genre of her art is truly rare and so dazzling that you cannot take your eyes away from any of her masterpieces! Her style is combined with the vibe of edginess and a touch of sassy flare as well. Another bonus is her phenomenal color work. She makes sure that the colors used run smoothly with the image, which they do.



This 15 year old male who owns the account @dertai on Instagram is certainly an interesting artist. He specializes in the performance of furry/anthro art and hardly sketches anything unrelated to that. The style he possesses can be switched from realistic to a more cartoony arrangement. The fact that he is at such a young age and is able to maneuver art so impressively is incredible. The account holds few posts of his magic but those few are enough proof to show that in the near future he will provide his followers with more eye catching art pieces.



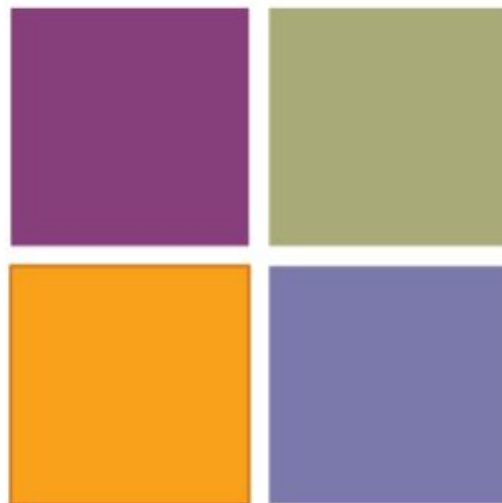
The owner of @lureasonart on Instagram is a 20 year old female art student. The realistic art she presents to the public is mainly portraits she has done of celebrities. However, she has drawn some portraits of celebrities with a bit of a twist done to them that makes her work fantastically divergent to other artists. The individuals selected for this rare project were the members of the famous boy band One Direction. While still depicting their actual facial expressions this artist disfigured the handsome faces of the members into disturbing, gruesome zombies. For someone to be able to do that, they must have real skills.





Art From Us!

By Kathy Tran and Jenny Nguyen



Imperial Peasant

"Imperial Peasant"

Imperial Peasant is a full body cartoon portrait depicting a grimy, female peasant, wearing noble clothing to boost her self-esteem. Jenny yet again, presents us with a phenomenal masterpiece, using a collaboration of watercolor paint, and Copic Markers. She creates a piece of art so fascinating, it could amaze nearly anyone.

+ Young Warrior

"Young Warrior"

Young Warrior is a young teen girl who carries a sword to exhibit that she is independent, and brave. Czarina creates this endearing, and bold work of art using inexpensive tools such as Crayola Super Tip Markers, and Crayola Color Pencils. This piece of art exhibits both braveness, and boldness, giving it a bit of an edgy look.

+ Nausaicaä

"Nausaicaä"

Nausaicaä is a young and beautiful princess who goes on expeditions to protect the animals and people around her. Gabrielle, like always, amazes us with her art. This time she presents us with a delightful piece of art using inexpensive, and simple tools like color pencils and an outlining pen. This piece of art would make you feel exhilarated due to its bright color scheme.



+ Annabella

"Annabella"

Annabella is a headshot of a girl with a smiling face and gentle eyes. Jusleyvi stuns us with this piece, made with a simple lead pencil. It's surprising because she only began drawing a month ago! This piece will make you feel at ease because of its calming disposition.

+ Bob and Bobilina

A male bunny named Bob and a female bunny named Bobilina have fallen head over heels for each other. Love is in the air! Kimberly shows us this charming piece made with Crayola colored pencils and markers. It's so adorable; it'll make you ship the two bunnies in the picture!



Adobe Photoshop

Where You Can Create Anything





Improve your art skills.

Battle of the Arts



Kimberly Varela



Gabrielle Valentin

VS

This issue, we have Gabrielle Valentin and Kimberly Varela from the SPARK Staff battling it out with two dynamic pieces of art! Let's see what they gave us, and good luck to both participants!

Gabrielle draws Laina, her half-cyclops half-goat character with professional finesse. She uses colored pencils, such as Crayola and Prismacolor, to create this piece. This piece is artistically appealing to all of us here at SPARK, and it's sure to impress you too!

Kimberly, on the other hand, shows us a body portrait of a light goddess, spreading radiant beams of light to showcase her ability. Kimberly too uses colored pencils with red undertones to create a dazzling piece. This piece is Kimberly's best work yet, and we at SPARK love it!

But whose is better? Gabrielle's? Kimberly's? That's for you to decide! Contact us at sparkmagbusiness.wix.com/spark and tell us who won this edition of Battle of the Arts! For a chance for your art to be featured in this segment, send us your artwork at sparkmagbusiness@gmail.com for a chance to battle it out with another lucky winner!

Masthead

Jusleyvi Ventura
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Art Critic

Kimberly Varela
Writer

Jenny Nguyen
Writer & Critic

Kathy Tran
Writer & web Designer



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