Painter® 20 18

REVIEWER'S GUIDE

Contents

Artwork by Michelle Webb

Introducing Corel® Painter® 2018

Corel® Painter® 2018 is the world's most realistic digital art studio. There are many reasons why creative professionals and digital artists have chosen to make Corel Painter an integral part of their design process, but two really stand out — painting tools and workflow features.

A loyal and passionate user base actively participates in Painter's development by offering constructive feedback, and sharing their work, tools and methods. These insights and suggestions drive so many of these painting and workflow innovations.

The power and diversity of its revolutionary digital painting tools is what makes Corel Painter the paint program that all others are measured against. Its expansive collection of painting tools not only offers an unrivaled ability to emulate traditional art, but also gives users the power to redefine what's possible in digital art.

Each version of Corel Painter has pushed the envelope by consistently adding new tools and features that quickly became the benchmark in the digital art world — Texture Painting, Particle Brushes, and Dynamic Speckles to name just a few from recent releases. Corel Painter 2018 continues this push to deliver groundbreaking features that are incredibly powerful in a range of creative sectors and workflows.

The addition of Thick Paint offers artists a digital painting experience like no other. It mimics the look and feel of thick paint with remarkable fidelity and has a concise set of brushes inspired by traditional tools. Some of our most popular brushes have been made more versatile with new options for blending with underlying brushstrokes or transparency.

Artwork by Sidney Muniz

Texture Painting, one of the most popular recent additions to Painter, is made even more dynamic with new Thick Texture brushes that apply 2.5D strokes.

Features that accelerate artistic workflows and simplify the creative process are another reason why Corel Painter is like no other paint program on the market. Creating photo art and composites is easier than ever with revamped UI and new clone-source options. The new Texture Synthesis feature gives digital artists of all stripes the ability to create dynamic, one-of-a-kind textures. And the new time-saving Selection Brush tool makes protecting image areas as easy as applying a brushstroke.

Give it a try, and we're sure you'll agree — Corel Painter 2018 is changing what's possible in digital art.

Artist profiles

Concept artists

Corel Painter 2018 offers concept artists a powerful and versatile feature set for every stage of their workflow. The ability to add randomness to brush variants gives concept artists the freedom to discover a world of creative possibilities as they paint with tools that have a traditional look and feel. Once the right look has been pinpointed, Corel Painter 2018 has the tools that they need to quickly refine even the most minute detail of every element of their concepts.

Illustrators

Illustrators count on Painter because of the power and diversity of a toolset that lets them work with precision, speed, and confidence. Whether creating a character or publishing an illustration, package design, or promotional piece, Corel Painter 2018 has the art tools illustrators need to bring their vision to life and immerse their audience in the story. It's the perfect medium for visually capturing and expressing their ideas, from initial sketches to fully rendered designs. No other program allows them to transition seamlessly from traditional methods to the world of digital art quite like Corel Painter. Whatever real-world medium they've counted on before, there's a Painter equivalent that lets them create just like they always have, only faster.

Artwork by Harvey Bunda

Manga and Comic artists

A wide range of sketching, drawing and inking tools make Corel Painter 2018 the best digital art program for manga and comic artists to develop a personal style that stands out. So much of their work calls on traditional methods that Painter is renowned for emulating, from watercolor to oil to liquid ink. Painter has the tools that they need to create clean, crisp lines, bold effects, and subtle shading. Often working to aggressive deadlines, they know they can count on a comprehensive set of composition and symmetry tools and intuitive color management features. There's no other tool on the market that gives them the power to build up a concept and then bring it to life in living color with such impact.

Fine artists

Corel Painter 2018 provides the most natural way to transition from traditional to digital art on the market. Fine artists can easily combine classic art practices and time-honored techniques with state-of-the-art Natural-Media technology to create digital art that's just as impressive as what they can create on a physical canvas. Corel Painter 2018 can save them valuable time thanks to the ability to undo mistakes in a way that only a digital art studio allows. What's more, there's no toxic fumes or costly art supplies.

Artwork by Hector Sevilla

Photo artists

With powerful Auto-Painting and Cloning tools, plus one-of-a-kind image painting features found only in Corel Painter 2018, photo artists can capture a moment and easily transform the image into a digital work of art. They have everything they need to produce visually stunning painted keepsakes and sellable works of photo art in no time.

Students and teachers

Painter is a vital asset for all budding artists and an essential component for any art-related curriculum. It has digital tools that mimic the look and feel of their real world counterparts, and perspective and composition features that simplify some of the fundamentals of art. Corel Painter 2018 offers a natural way for students to learn traditional art techniques in an environment that's very conducive to experimentation — without the cost and mess associated with traditional art supplies.

Artwork by Lamar Smart
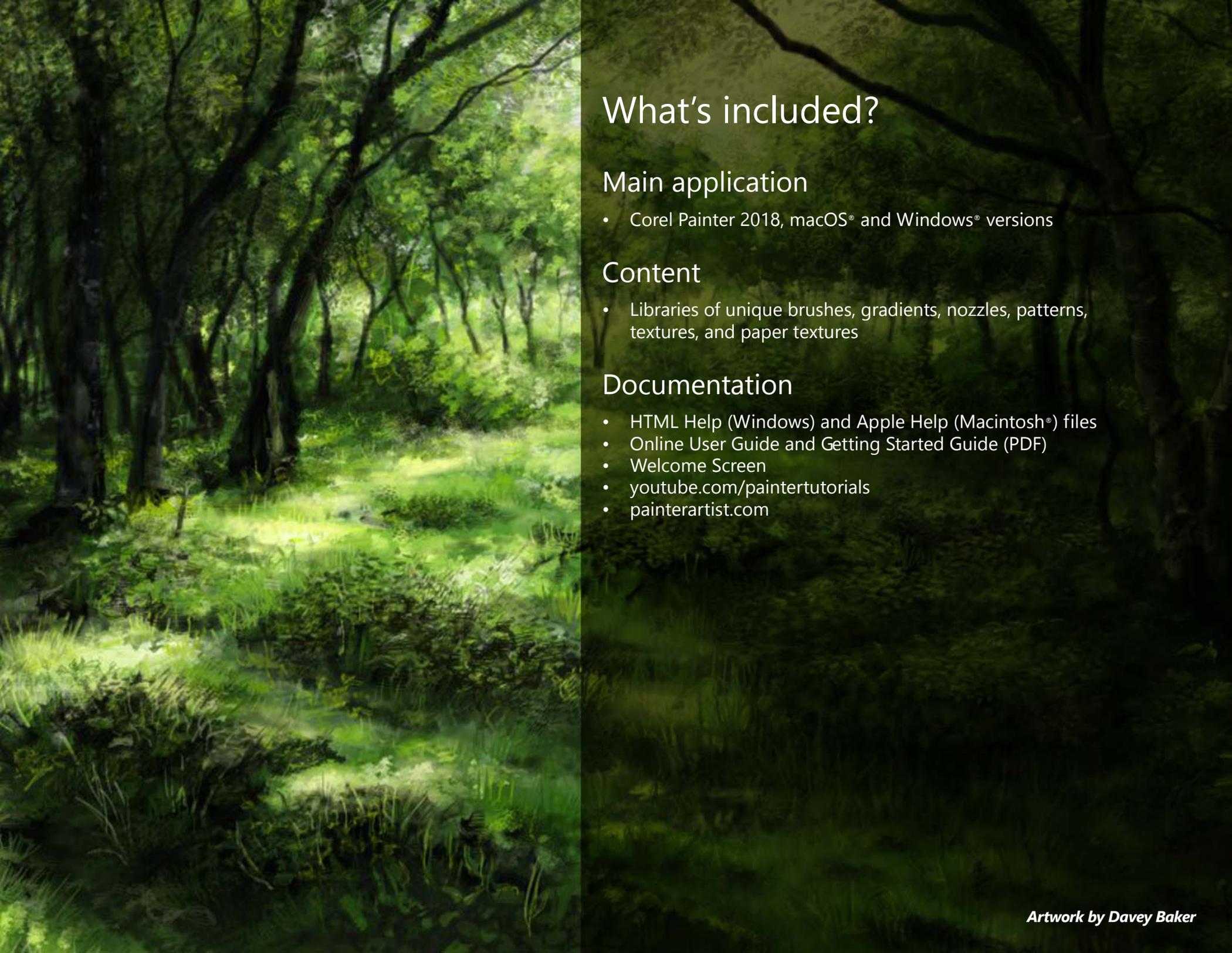
What's included?

Main application

- Corel Painter 2018, macOS® and Windows® versions

Content

- Libraries of unique brushes, gradients, nozzles, patterns, textures, and paper textures

Documentation

- HTML Help (Windows) and Apple Help (Macintosh®) files
- Online User Guide and Getting Started Guide (PDF)
- Welcome Screen
- youtube.com/paintertutorials
- painterartist.com

Artwork by Davey Baker

Minimum system requirements

macOS® version:

- macOS® X 10.12, 10.11 or 10.10 (with latest revision)
- Multi-core Intel® with 64-bit support
  (4 logical cores or higher recommended)
- 2 GB of RAM (8 GB or higher recommended)
- 750 MB of hard disk space for application files
  (Solid-state drive recommended)
- 1280 × 800 screen resolution (1920 × 1080 recommended)
- Mouse or tablet
- DVD drive (required for box installation)

Windows® version:

- Microsoft® Windows® 10 (64-bit), Microsoft Windows 8.1 (64-bit), or
  Windows 7 (64-bit), with the latest Service Packs
- Intel® Core 2 or AMD Athlon™ 64 processor (2 GHz or faster)
  (4 logical cores or higher recommended)
- 2 GB of RAM (8 GB or higher recommended)
- 1 GB of hard disk space for application files[1]
- 1280 × 800 screen resolution (1920 × 1080 recommended)
- Mouse or tablet
- DVD drive (required for box installation)
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 11 or higher, with the latest updates

To activate your product on either operating system, you must connect to the Internet and register it first.

Upgrade eligibility: Painter users of previous versions can take advantage of special discount pricing when upgrading to Painter 2018. Please note that upgrade eligibility excludes Trial, Academic, OEM and Not for Resale (NFR) versions.

---

1. Additional space may be required for Microsoft .NET Framework 4.6

Artwork by Pat Watson

Key features

Corel Painter 2018 is the world's most authentic digital art studio.

Painting Tools

Painter is famous for an expansive collection of painting tools that inspire artists and give them the freedom to create without boundaries.

New! **Thick Paint**

Ask a digital artist to list off the things that make Corel Painter so different from every other paint program, and one thing always comes up — the ability to easily combine classic art practices and time-honored techniques with state-of-the-art Natural-Media technology. And this tradition continues in Corel Painter 2018 with the introduction of Thick Paint, which mimics the look and feel of thick paint with remarkable fidelity.

Thick Paint has brushes inspired by traditional tools that you'd instantly recognize in any art supply store. There are a range of bristle brushes and palette knives carefully crafted to deliver the feel and behavior you'd expect.

These new brushes use paint that has pigment and volume that behaves just like real paint. This means you can blend, build up, push, pull and scrape the paint using the pressure, tilt, and rotation of your stylus. These variants deliver versatile, scalable brush loading, so you can spend more time focusing on your work and less on the UI. Using a quick keyboard shortcut and dragging, you can precisely load the brush on the fly, thanks to a cursor that displays the amount of paint you've loaded and the color.

Artwork by Karen Bonaker

Just like in the real world, you can create strokes that have ridges of paint within. But what really makes the ridging pop, of course, is shadows in the canyons of the stroke.

With that in mind, Painter lets you adjust the shadow strength and ambient lighting to get depth in a brushstroke like never before. What's more, the ability to tweak the transparency of brushstrokes and control how paper texture interacts with the paint opens up a world of creative possibilities.

The Thick Paint property bar offers presets for painting technique, as well as quick access to settings that allow you to prevent the brush from running out of paint and control how new brushstrokes blend with existing ones. This makes it easy to jump in and get stunning results right away. Or if you'd rather tinker and experiment to get a certain look, there are new Thick Paint panels where you can modify controls.

Thick Paint brushes offer a natural-media experience with the look and feel of thick paint and traditional impasto.

Artwork by Collin Chan

Give it a try

Working with Thick Paint

1 Choose **File ▶ New** to create a new document.

2 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Thick Paint** brush category, and choose the **Grainy Loaded Palette Knife** brush variant.

3 Apply a single continuous brushstroke on the canvas until the palette knife starts running out of paint to reveal the paper texture.

You can adjust the amount of paint loaded between brushstrokes by clicking the **Paint Load** button 🖌, and dragging in the document to load the brush. If you're using a mouse, set the paint load to 15%.

4 On the property bar, click the **Paper Selector** button 🖾, and choose a new paper texture.

5 Apply more brushstrokes to see how the new paper texture changes the interaction with the paint.

6 Increase the paint loading, and apply brushstrokes on the canvas building up a large amount of paint varying depth.

7 Choose **Canvas ▶ Surface Lighting**.

8 In the Surface Lighting dialog box, experiment with how lighting interacts with Thick Paint by moving the **Brightness** slider in the Ambient Lighting area and the **Shadow Strength** slider.

Grainy Loaded Palette Knife (left), revealing paper texture (center), comparing lighting effects (right)

Artwork by Cher Pendarvis

Give it a try

Working with Thick Paint

1 Choose **File ▸ New** to create a new document.

2 Choose the **Grainy Real Bristle Oils Flat** variant from the **Thick Paint** brush category in the Brush Selector.

3 Apply a few brushstrokes to the canvas.

4 Choose a new color on the Color panel, and paint over the existing brushstrokes to blend the colors.

5 On the property bar, click the **Show Thick Paint - Brush panel** button 🖼.

6 On the Thick Paint - Brush panel, move the **Bleed** slider to **0%**.

7 Paint over the existing brushstrokes.

Note how the new brushstrokes don't blend with the existing ones when using a lower bleed setting.

8 On the property bar, click the **Reset Tool** button 🔧 to reset the brush.

9 On the property bar, click the **Technique** button 🖊, and choose the **Soft** preset, which lets you paint smooth, flat, fluid brushstrokes.

10 Apply a few brushstrokes to the canvas.

11 Now, click the **Technique** button again, and choose the **Thin** preset, which lets you paint thin brushstrokes that lightly cover existing strokes and can reveal some paper texture.

12 Apply a few brushstrokes to the canvas.

Note the differences between brushstrokes created using different Technique presets.

Grainy Real Bristle Oils Flat – high bleed (left), no bleed (center), Thin Technique preset (right)

***Enhanced!* Drip and Liquid Brush technologies**

Brushes that use drip or liquid technologies are even more versatile in Painter 2018.

Take, for example, the Sargent Brush, one of most popular Painter brush variants ever. Loved by artists for its rich brushstrokes, the Sargent Brush can now be used on an empty layer to blend the currently selected color with an oil-like transparency. Alternatively, you can use variants that use drip or liquid technologies to pick up color from underlying layers. What's more, this step forward in brush technology offers artists of all stripes a range of fresh brushes, opening up a world of possibilities.

Artwork by Kari Nanstad

Give it a try

Using enhanced drip and liquid brush technologies

1 Choose **File ▸ New** to create a new document, and click the **New Layer** button on the Layer panel to create a new layer.

2 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Sargent** brush category, and select the **Real Bristle Soft** variant.

3 Click the **Clone Color** button in the Color panel.

4 On the property bar, click the **Clone Source** picker, choose **Texture** from the **Source** list box, choose a texture, and enable **Show Texture** check box.

5 Paint over the texture. Then, click the **New Layer** button on the Layer panel to create a new layer.

6 Click the **Clone Color** button in the Color panel to turn off color cloning.

7 Paint another area of the document. Then, click the **New Layer** button on the Layer panel to create a new layer.

8 On the Layers panel, click the **Pick Up Underlying Color** button.

9 Click the **Clone Color** button in the Color panel, click the **Clone Source** picker on the property bar, and choose another texture.

10 Paint over both sets of brushstrokes that you've applied.

11 On the property bar, click the **Clone Source** picker, and disable **Show Texture** check box.

12 On the Layers panel, turn layers on and off to see the results.

Notice how painting on an empty layer blends with underlying colors without affecting the underlying layer.

13 Click the **Pick Up Underlying Color** button again to disable it.

Artwork by Jack Whitney

New! Thick Texture Brushes

Concept artists and character designers love Texture Painting for its ability it to deliver powerful realism, and Painter 2018 takes the experience to a whole new level.

New 2.5D Thick Texture brushes apply strokes that feel like they're jumping off the canvas. Do you need to make a character authentically reptilian? You can paint thick, exotic scales that look like they're rising off the canvas. Or when you need to make skin more lifelike, Thick Texture brushes let you paint cavernous pores and amplify them by adjusting the directional lighting and appearance of depth.

Artwork by Aaron Rutten

Give it a try

Painting with Thick Texture brushes

1 Open the sample file **3Dmodel.png**.

2 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Texture Source Blending** brush category, and select the **Stencil Soft Emboss 2.5D** brush variant.

3 Click the **Texture Selector** 🖾 on the property bar, and click **Peeling Paint**.

4 On the property bar, type **25** in the **Visibility** box, and click the **Show Texture** 🖾 button.

5 Paint the 3D model.

6 Choose **Canvas ▶ Surface Lighting**.

7 Click on the lighting sphere where you want to add a new light source. A new light indicator (small circle) appears where you click.

8 Experiment by dragging a light indicator to a new position on the sphere.

Model by Cris Palomino

New! Natural-Media brush library

The new Natural-Media brush library makes it easy for artists transitioning from traditional to digital art. It gives quick, one-stop access to brushes that mimic traditional media, from pencils and pastels to oils and acrylics, and much more. If you've used it in the real world, chances are you'll find the digital equivalent in the Natural-Media brush library. You can access the new collection by opening the Brush Selector and choosing Natural Media Brushes from the Brush Library list box.

New! Random Grain Rotation

Another user request in Painter 2018 is random grain rotation. This new feature slightly rotates the paper grain in each stroke, giving brushstrokes a more natural, organic look.
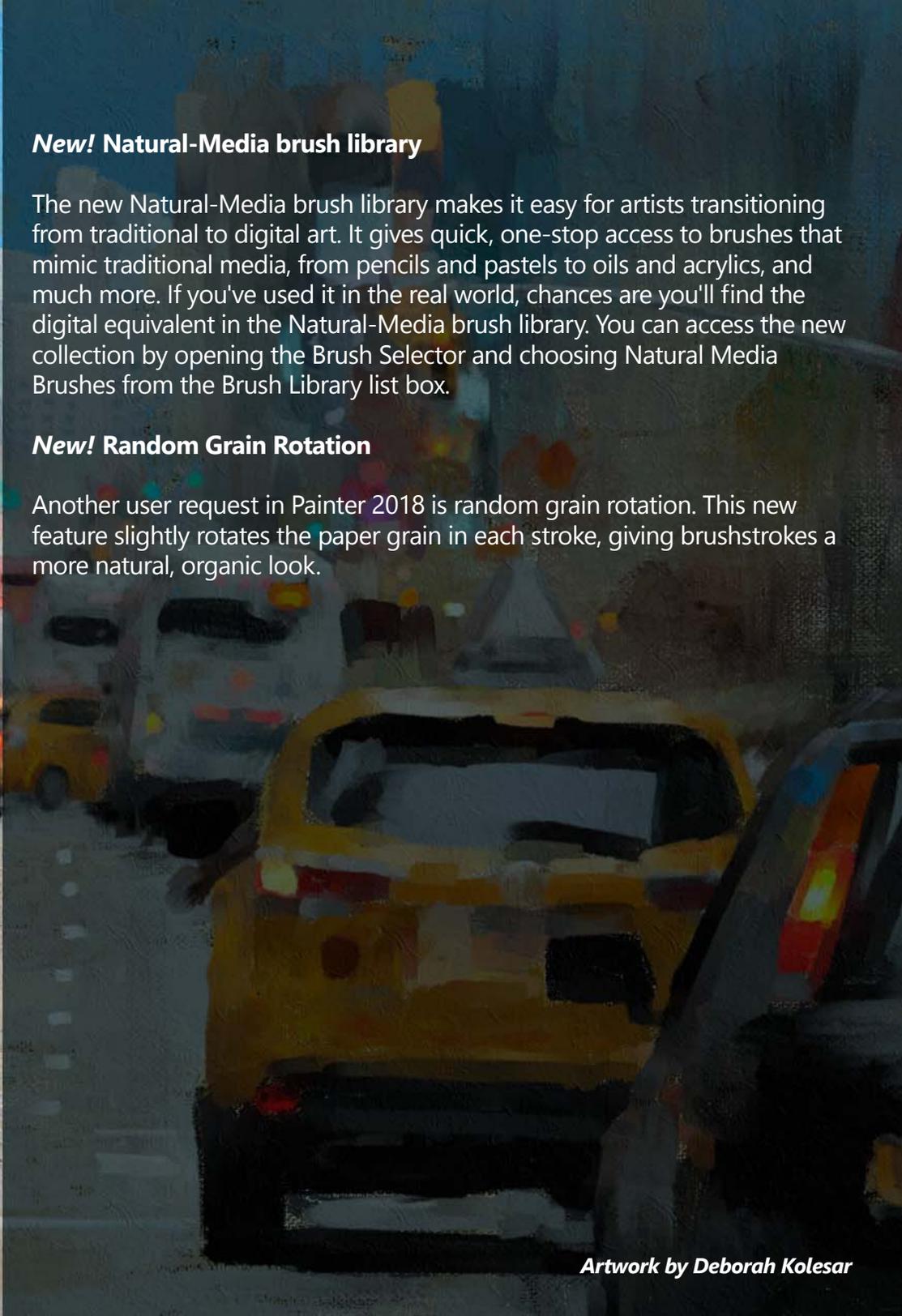
Artwork by Deborah Kolesar

Workflow Tools

A series of workflow tools and enhancements help tailor the workspace to your needs and streamline how you paint.

New! **Selection Brush tool and Selection brushes**

Because selections are critical to so many digital-art workflows, Corel Painter 2018 gives you more choices when you need to isolate an area of an image.

How much time could you save if you could create a selection as easily and precisely as you can apply a brushstroke? The new Selection Brush tool lets you do just that. To make it easier to distinguish between selected and protected areas, you can display a color overlay when you apply a stroke. You can fine-tune the overlay to make it suit the document that you're working in.

There's a new Selection brush category with new variants designed specifically for creating selections when working with a complex shape or image area. There's also the option of turning any stamp-based brush variant into a selection tool, giving you even more flexibility.

What's more, you can tweak a brush just as if you were using it to paint, then save it as a custom selection variant for reuse. And in response to artist feedback, there are a series of selection improvements in Painter 2018.

Artwork by Joe Kulka

Give it a try

Creating a selection by painting

1 Open an image.

2 In the toolbox, click the **Oval Selection** tool ⬚.

3 Drag in the document to select an area.

4 In the toolbox, click the **Selection Brush** tool ✏.

5 On the property bar, click the **Dab Options** button ▦, and choose a dab profile.

6 Click the **Add To Selection** button ▦ on the property bar and paint any areas you want to add to the oval selection.

7 Click the **Save Selection** ▦ on the property bar, name the selection in the Save Selection dialog box, and click **OK**.

The saved selection will appear in the Channels panel.

8 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Selection Brush** brush category, and experiment with a variety of variants.

9 In the toolbox, click the **Interactive Gradient** tool ▢, and drag in an active selection to apply the gradient.

Artwork by Aaron Rutten

Enhanced! Cloning Workflow

It's easier to create compelling photo composites in Painter 2018. A range of cloning enhancements let photo artists to do more, in less time. You can increase the sophistication of your photo composites in Painter 2018 with new cloning transparency support. You can now use transparent and semi-transparent clone sources when creating a collage, so all elements in a composite interact naturally. And for even more accurate transparency cloning, there's a precise cloning option that picks up colors from the center of the brush dab. Photo artists can now use a texture as a clone source. Transformations can be applied to texture clone sources, so you can resize and shape them to easily and intuitively craft a composite. The UI has been streamlined to simplify switching between clone sources. The revamped cloning controls give you more space to work, but not at the expense of easy access to the settings you need most. All critical cloning controls are easily accessible from a flyout on the property bar. Whatever your favorite cloning workflow is, Painter 2018 has you covered. Whether tracing paper or a crosshair cloning cursor works best for you, the choice is yours. And when you find or create a clone source that you want to reuse, you can save it with the image as an embedded source or as a texture in the Texture library so it's always at your fingertips. There's also an option that lets you embed a clone source in a document, saving you time finding the source when you get back to work and simplifying sharing with other photo artists.

Artwork by Sandy Oman

Give it a try

Cloning with texture

1 Choose **File ▶ New**, and create a new document with a width of 1800 pixels and a height of 1000 pixels.

2 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Cloners** brush category, and select the **Camel Impasto Cloner 2** brush variant.

3 On the property bar, click the **Show or hide Cloning panel** button 🖳.

4 On the **Clone Source** panel, choose **Texture** from the **Source** list box, choose the **Japanese Magnolia** texture (in the Photo Art section), and enable the **Show Texture** check box.

5 Click the **New Layer** button 🔲 on the Layer panel.

6 Brush over the texture. Then, switch variants, and clone some more. **Bristle Blender**, **Particle Flow Bristle Fine**, **Particle Spring Oil Mop 2** are good variants to try out.

7 On the **Clone Source** panel, disable the **Show Texture** check box.

8 Click the **Canvas** layer on the Layer panel.

9 In the toolbox, click the **Interactive Gradient** tool 🔲.

10 On the property bar, click the **Gradient Selector** 🔵, choose **Jungle Leaf Greens** and drag in the document to apply the gradient.

11 On the property bar, click the **Express Paint** button 🟥, and choose an auto-painting style.

12 Click the **Commit Gradient** button ☑ on the property bar.

13 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Sargent** brush category, select the **Drippy Jellyfish** variant, and paint stems on the flowers.

14 On the Texture Libraries panel, click the panel options button 📑, and click the **Embed Texture as Clone Source Image**. If the Texture Libraries panel isn't open, click **Window ▶ Media Library Panels ▶ Textures**.

Once you save the image, the texture is automatically available for cloning the next time the file is opened.
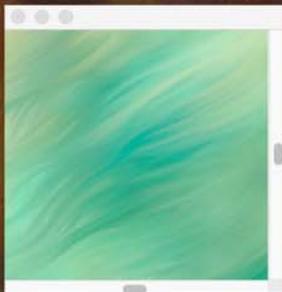
Experience the new freedom of painting from transparent clone sources that seamlessly blend into your composition.

Artwork by Karen Bonaker

New! Texture Synthesis

The limitless creative possibilities that made Texture Painting an instant favorite with concept artists and character designers just got even more powerful thanks to the addition of the Synthesis feature. It allows you to capture and synthesize an area of a texture or document and reproduce it on a larger scale, using all the visual elements of the input sample. During the synthesis process, properties of the selected area are randomized, creating a new texture based on settings that you've chosen. You can then paint with it to give every texture brushstroke even more depth and detail.

Texture Synthesis gives digital artists of all stripes the ability to create vibrant, one-of-a-kind textures. Because you can also use part of an image, you can use favorite brushstrokes as the DNA of a new texture, offering infinite possibilities. The synthesized texture can then be used just like any other texture or it can be exported to a layer.

And in Painter 2018 you can fill with texture, whether you created it using the Texture Synthesis feature, imported it to use with a Texture Painting brush, or found it in the Texture library.
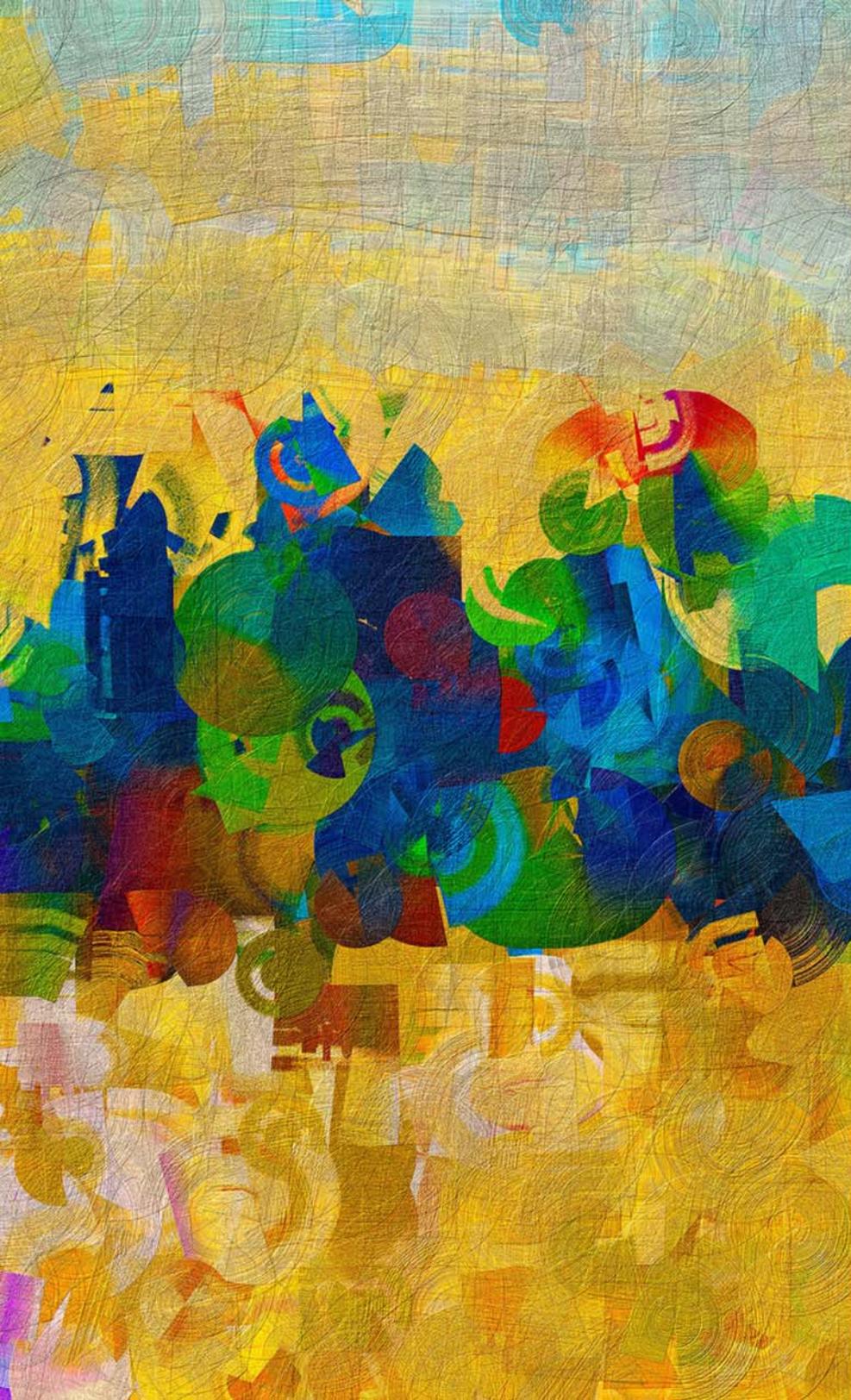
Give it a try

Creating a texture using Texture Synthesis

1 Create a new document with a height and width of 500 pixels.

2 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Airbrush** brush category, and select the **Coarse Spray Jitter** brush variant.

3 Paint on the canvas.

4 Choose the **Rectangular Selection** tool ▦ from the Toolbox, and select an area of the canvas that you painted.

5 Choose **Window ▸ Media Control Panels ▸ Synthesis** to open the Texture Synthesis panel.

6 On the Texture Synthesis panel, select **Document** from the **Source** list box, enable the **New Layer** option in the **Send To** area, and type **500** in the **Width** and **Height** boxes.

7 Click the **Start** button. The new synthesized texture is sent to a new layer in the document.

8 Create another document with a height and width of 500 pixels.

9 Click the Brush Selector, click the **Texture Cover** brush category, and select the **Gauzy Chroma 2.5D** brush variant.

10 Paint on the canvas.

11 Choose the **Rectangular Selection** tool from the Toolbox, and select an area of the canvas that you painted.

12 On the Texture Synthesis panel, select **Document** from the **Source** list box, enable the **Texture Library** option in the **Send To** area, and type **500** in the **Width** and **Height** boxes.

13 Click the **Start** button. In the Save Texture As dialog box, name the new texture *2018*, and click **OK**.

2018 becomes the active texture in the Texture library.

14 Create a new document, select the **Concept 2.5D** variant of the Texture Cover brush category, and paint in the document with the texture you created.

Artwork by Michael Pierre Price

About Corel

Corel is one of the world's top software companies providing some of the industry's best-known graphics, productivity and digital media products. Boasting the most comprehensive portfolio of innovative software, we've built a reputation for delivering solutions that are easy to learn and use, helping people achieve new levels of creativity and productivity. The industry has responded with hundreds of awards for innovation, design, and value.

Used by millions of people around the world, our product lines include CorelDRAW® Graphics Suite, Corel DESIGNER®, CorelCAD™, Corel® Painter®, Corel® PaintShop® Pro, Corel® VideoStudio®, and Corel® WordPerfect® Office. For more information on Corel, please visit www.corel.com.

Media Contact

Alex Brazeau

Public Relations Manager

Corel Corporation

613.366.3765

alex.brazeau@corel.com

Corel® Painter® 2018 Reviewer's Guide

Layout designed in CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2017

Artwork by Simon Haiduk