

Procreate

Introduction to Layers

Summary

Layers are at the heart of digital art. In order to use layers you need to see the value of them compared to 2D painting. They allow you to paint in 3D because you can paint backwards and forwards, like having a theatre set with different set walls that can be removed and changed in sequence. Start looking around and notice how the world is in layers from the sky in the background to the mountains, the valleys and the foreground. .

Procedure

1. Open Procreate and tap the + to open a square canvas. As always, make it smaller on the screen.
2. Make the background black:
 - a. Tap the layers icon
 - b. Tap BACKGROUND LAYER
 - c. Select the Classic view on the color picker (second from left at the bottom)
 - d. Move the Brightness slider (bottom slider) all the way to the left and it will make the canvas black!
3. Select the monoline pen from the calligraphy menu
4. Ensure the opacity slider is at 100% (top of lower slider on left of your Procreate screen)
5. Open the color picker (circle at top right of Procreate screen).
6. Tap CLASSIC at the bottom of the color picker window.
7. Slide the second and third sliders to the far right.
8. Slide the hue slider to the far left so you see RED in the picker circle.
9. Draw a square and keep your finger/stylus on the screen until it says SHAPE CREATED then let go.
10. Tap EDIT SHAPE and tap square. Move it using your finger or stylus to the middle of the canvas. NOTE: If it is not straight then after you move it, tap the arrow and adjust it so it is straight)
11. Fill with red (drag color from picker rapidly and drop it into the square).

12. If the whole canvas fills with color then you did not close the square. Undo and close the square so the line is continuous. Only other reason it will not fill is that the opacity slider was not at 100% and so it let the color through the line. Just undo and start again and ensure the opacity slider is at 100% and the shape is closed. NOTE: Sometimes my iPad will not let me fill. If this happens, simply close Procreate and reopen and it should work. Always do this is procreate seems unable to do what you ask it to!
13. Open the layers menu and tap LAYER 1 to show a menu bar on the left and then locate RENAME and call it SQUARE
14. Tap the white checkmark on the far right of the layer and notice it “disappears” and that it reappears when you tap the box so the checkmark shows up again. This button is called the EYE because it lets you make a layer visible or invisible.
15. NOTE: IF THE LAYER IS INVISIBLE YOU CANNOT DRAW ON IT AND YOU WILL SEE A NOTICE THAT TELLS YOU THE LAYER IS INVISIBLE. YOU NEED TO THEN MAKE IT VISIBLE SO YOU CAN DRAW ON IT AGAIN.
16. Tap layers and tap the PLUS mark on the top right of the layers drop down window to create LAYER 2
17. Notice the layer must be BLUE before you can work on it. It turns blue when you tap on the layer. A layer must be selected to work on it, and you can see it is selected when it is colored blue.
18. Open the color picker and swipe the hue slider so it shows BLUE.
19. Repeat steps 8=10 to create a CIRCLE and fill it with blue.
20. Call the new layer CIRCLE
21. Open a new layer
22. Select YELLOW and draw a triangle, holding it down until it snaps into a triangle.
23. Adjust corners to fit triangle into the circle.
24. If you are not happy with the size and placement of any of your layers do this:
 - a. Open layers and select the shape you want to adjust
 - b. Pinch the canvas so it is at the top of the screen with room for the toolbar that appears in the next step.
 - c. Tap the Selection Arrow Tool on the toolbar at the top. This puts a box around the object on the layer so you can adjust and move it.
 - d. Try moving it around using your stylus or finger. Move it from OUTSIDE the box. Less chance of messing it up.
 - e. To expand the shape you can tap the freeform and magnetic icons on the bottom toolbar and drag one of the corners diagonally inwards or outwards to change the size. If you want to change the shape you can tap the distort button, deselect the magnetic icon and then move each corner to the place you want it.

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25. Open layers and learn to move them up and down:
 - a. Tap and hold the SQUARE layer and drag it TO THE TOP. Note you cannot see the other two layers.
 - b. Make the circle layer invisible by tapping the white box on the far right of the SQUARE layer.
 - c. Repeat with other layers, and adjust size of the shapes by tapping the Selection Arrow on the top toolbar.
 - d. Move them around until you feel confident you can move a layer up or down in sequence and notice the change on the screen as different layers are on top etc.
 26. Practice changing colors of each of the shapes.
 - a. Select the layer containing the shape you want to change.
 - b. Now open the color picker and select a new color
 - c. Drag and drop it into the shape to change the color. You can do this at any point.
 27. Next we will learn that you can fill each shape with different brush strokes and textures by creating an invisible mask around the shape. To create such a mask you need to locate the shape you want to paint on and tap it to show the left hand menu and look down and find ALPHA LOCK and then tap it. You will notice a faint grid shows on the image in the layers indicating it is alpha locked.
 28. Open brushes and change to a textures brush
 29. Put a different color on the brush
 30. Paint over the shape and notice you are painting on the shape but NOT on the surrounding area. This is because the ALPHA LOCK function creates an invisible mask around the shape on the layer.
 31. You can create other shapes by opening a new layer and use your monoline pen to draw any shape freehand you want, making sure to close the shape, then fill with color. Try creating hearts, flowers and so forth, and then alpha lock and paint them, then use your selection arrow to place them where you want, making them larger or smaller and so forth.

HOMEWORK: Redo the steps until you are confident and then create your own artwork using different layers, colors and shapes and send them to me as jpgs so I can put them into the shared slideshow for the start of class.

Good luck!