

Don't waste your time "surfing."
Find the go-to art sites right here.

73 Best Websites for Artists

By *Watercolor Artist Staff*

A Google search for "art" brings up (are you ready?) nearly 2 billion websites! Finding what you want in such a deluge of information can be challenging to say the least. We know you don't want to waste precious studio time wading through all that data when all you really want to do is paint, so we've made it easy for you. Whether you're trying to find a description of John Singer Sargent's color palette, how to protect your work from copyright infringement, or find out once and for all if you're a Picasso person or a Matisse person (yes, there's a web page for that), we've found the sites that'll help. To make it even easier to find what you're looking for, we've divided the list of our favorite art sites into 10 categories: reference; museums; videos; exhibitions/competitions; community; awareness/advocacy; protecting yourself; jobs in the arts; products; and sites just for fun. (Look for the ■ for our family of sites.)

Reference

www.artchive.com

An online database of information on artists and art movements alike, the Artchive is a rich resource for artists' biographical information, images of major works and links to far deeper resources. Download a free wallpaper calendar featuring a different artist each month.

www.artcyclopedia.com

Artcyclopedia is a large, dynamic database of links and information on your favorite artists. It's an excellent resource for finding out which museums hold their best work, and a good place to begin your search for more in-depth material.

■ www.artistsnetwork.com

The online home of *Watercolor Artist*, *The Artist's Magazine* and *The Pastel Journal*, ArtistsNetwork.com offers ideas and solutions for artists in all media.

www.artlex.com

What's anamorphosis? Find out on ArtLex, the online art dictionary. Entries are hyperlinked, indexed and often include illustrations.

www.artquotes.net

Ever wonder what Andrew Wyeth had to say about dreams? Artquotes.net is the place for you. Search the site's database for quotes from famous artists and sign up to receive two inspirational art quotes, three times a week—a special treat for your creative inbox.

www.artsandartists.org

Keep track of traveling exhibitions with International Art & Artists. The nonprofit organization sponsors nearly 40 shows in the United States and around the world every year. It also offers international training programs for young artists.

www.askart.com

Visit AskArt for answers to your questions regarding well-known artists in the United States and beyond. The database prides itself on its status as one of the largest pools of information about artists available online today. Artists are easily searchable and most entries include biographical references and book and magazine listings.

■ www.fwmagazines.com

Misplaced your favorite issue of *Watercolor Artist*? Find single back issues, as well as entire years' worth of the magazine on CD.

■ www.nlbooks.com

Looking for even more watercolor instruction and inspiration? Check out the fine art books from North Light Books.

<http://painting.about.com>

The art hub of the larger About.com site, this resource for artists features answers to common painting-related questions, as well as blogs, demonstrations and instruction for beginners. Follow the Watercolor Painting links for good tips.

■ www.watercolorartistmagazine.com

Search our article database for tips and techniques from the magazine and get extra online-exclusive material, including video slide shows of featured artists' work and step-by-step painting demonstrations.

www.watercolorpainting.com/glossary.htm

This hub of information for watercolor artists came into being when one devoted painter discovered that the domain name happened to be available for purchase. Today it's a solid resource for tips and tutorials suitable for beginning and intermediate watercolor artists.

Museums

www.artic.edu/aic

Art Institute of Chicago's site keeps you up to speed on its exhibitions, collection, new developments, including The Modern Wing, scheduled to open in 2009, and events such as The Art Institute Elderhostel program.

www.brooklynmuseum.org

Brooklyn Museum, the first American art museum to begin a watercolor collection, offers a comprehensive, downloadable PDF watercolor glossary. Keep it right on your desktop for quick studio reference.

www.getty.edu

View The Getty's permanent collection, or check out what's currently on display with highlighted works from exhibitions, such as "A Light Touch: Exploring Humor in Drawing" (September 23–December 7).

www.louvre.fr

The Louvre's site offers online tours—including "Masterpieces of the Louvre," featuring 300 works from the collection—in-depth studies of individual works and a daily examination of a master painting.

www.metmuseum.org

The Metropolitan Museum of Art boasts the Timeline of Art History, a reference guide written by The Met's curatorial, conservation and education staff.

www.mfa.org

Current exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, are enhanced online with slide shows. The site also features hotel package deals and downloadable fine art wallpaper for your phone.

www.museodelprado.es/en/ingles

Check out the Prado Museum's extensive collection of Spanish painting, specifically that of Diego Velázquez and Francisco Goya.

www.nga.gov

If you're looking for information on art preservation, check out the National Gallery of Art's site for the scientific research department's glossary of methods and materials.

www.tate.org.uk

At Tate Online, you can browse the collections and current exhibitions of Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Tate Liverpool and Tate St. Ives.

www.walkerart.org

It's immediately clear by the Walker Art Center's website—neon banners gliding by in opposite directions—that this Minneapolis museum is a contemporary art center. The highlight of the site is the museum's seven individual blogs, categorized by art form.

Videos

■ www.artistsnetwork.tv

This service allows you to get expert painting instruction by renowned artists in your own home, on your own schedule. Buy access to a single workshop video or a six-month subscription to the entire video library.

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www.ccpvideos.com

Take a workshop with your favorite artist from the comfort of your own studio with Creative Catalyst's instructional videos. Visit the site to browse the catalogue and read the blog to catch the news on new productions.

www.youtube.com

While the quality of the instructional videos on YouTube may not be phenomenal, the range of offerings for watercolor artists certainly is. At last glance, there were more than 3,500 short watercolor videos available. The trick is narrowing the search to suit your needs. Get specific.

Exhibitions/Competitions

www.artcalendar.com

The online home of *Art Calendar* magazine, this site's Calls to Artists page breaks down opportunities into those that require a fee to enter and those that are free. Plus, they post select business articles from the print publication.

www.artdeadlineslist.com

Find leads for just about anything you want to do with your art, including contests and competitions, jobs and internships, scholarships, grants and fellowships, art festivals and other calls for entry.

www.artfaircalendar.com

Use this handy list of juried events around the country to plan your yearly art fair schedule.

Community

■ www.artistsnetwork.com/article/wcm_societies.asp

Connect with other artists in your area by finding a watercolor society near you on our society listings page. Sign up on several different organizations' sites to receive their newsletters in your inbox.

■ <http://forum.artistsnetwork.com>

Need some creative support? Our lively forum has you covered. Registered members can also take part in the bimonthly All-Media Paint-Off challenges to win prizes.

■ www.wetcanvas.com

Interact with fellow artists on a wide range of topics in one of the many forums, browse the extensive article index, give and receive feedback in online art critiques, be inspired by the library of reference images and experiment with the site's "virtual palette" color mixing tool.

Awareness/Advocacy

www.americansforthearts.org

A nonprofit organization, Americans for the Arts is dedicated to advancing the arts in America. Their site keeps you apprised of important art legislation and makes it easy for you to be heard with one-click tools, tips and information you need to contact your local legislators.

www.nea.gov

Find updated information on the National Endowment for the Arts' national initiatives, sponsored programs, awards and grants, as well as other resources for

funding and professional development. Listings are organized by art discipline.

Protecting Yourself

www.copyright.gov

Everything you need to know about copyright law is right here, along with the option to register your artwork for extra protection. There's a fee to register your work, but the site's FAQ section is free and extremely helpful.

Jobs in the Arts

www.artistcareertraining.com; <http://jobbank.artsusa.org>; www.salestipsforartists.com

Learn how to make a living making art, or find out who's hiring.

Products

Typically, you can purchase products from retailers' sites, whereas manufacturers' sites contain information about the materials.

NEW! from the publisher of *The Artist's Magazine*, *The Pastel Journal* and *Watercolor Artist*.

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Detail from P2, oil, 42x42, Sharon Sprung



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Where to buy:

Art Xpress (www.artxpress.com)
Dick Blick Art Materials (www.dickblick.com)
Art Supply Warehouse (www.aswexpress.com)
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff (www.cheapjoes.com)
Jerry's Artarama (www.jerrysartarama.com)
MisterArt.com (www.misterart.com)
Utrecht Art Supplies (www.utrechtart.com)
Savoir Faire (www.savoirfaire.com)

Where to learn more about the materials:

National Art Materials Trade Association (www.namta.org)
Winsor & Newton (www.winsornewton.com)
Royal & Langnickel (www.royalbrush.com)
Daler-Rowney (www.daler-rowney.com)
Daniel Smith Art Materials (www.danielsmith.com)
Jack Richeson & Co. (www.richesonart.com)
Da Vinci Paints (www.davincipaints.com)
Caran d'Ache (www.carandache.ch)
Golden Artist Colors (www.goldenpaints.com)
Liquitex Artist Acrylic (www.liquitex.com)
Loew-Cornell (www.loew-cornell.com)
Holbein Artist's & Designer's Materials (www.holbeinhk.com)
Natural Pigments (<http://naturalpigments.com>)
Fredrix Artist Canvas (www.fredrixartistcanvas.com)
Fabriano (www.cartierfabriano.it)
ArtAffairs (www.artaffairs.com)
American Frame (www.americanframe.com)
Hartford Fine Art (www.hartfordfineart.com)
FrameTek (www.frametek.com)

Just for Fun

www.absolutearts.com

Buy contemporary art, browse galleries and read about new and upcoming art exhibitions. The site also offers a beefy roster of art blogs, perfect surfing material for your slow afternoons.

www.artcafe.net

Read articles on everything from Elizabethan dogs to the importance of branding at ArtCafe. A staff of contributing editors adds new articles to the mix on a regular basis.

www.guardian.co.uk/quiz/questions/0,,717367,00.html

If there were only two artists in the world and you could be one of them, which one would you be: Picasso or Matisse? Answer a few incisive questions from *The Guardian* and find out.

www.handprint.com/HP/WCL

Find articles on just about every aspect of watercolor painting at Bruce MacEvoy's site. It's a painting resource designed with the watercolor artist in mind.

The biographical essays on well-known artists are particularly insightful.

www.jacksonpollock.org

Create an instant Jackson Pollock painting online with this spunky generator. You're just a click away from abstract expressionist delight.

www.momastore.com

Admit it. Sometimes you spend more time considering the Herman Miller chair in the museum store than you spend considering some of the paintings in the gallery. It's OK. It happens to the best of us. Now purchase without shame from the Museum of Modern Art's online store. You'll find everything from furniture to fine art prints.

www.painterskeys.com

Check out inspirational art articles at The Painter's Keys, and sign up to receive a free twice-weekly e-newsletter. A selection of videos is also available on the site.

http://pixmaven.com/phrase_generator.html

At a loss for what to say at your art group's critique meetings? Let the Instant Art Critique Phrase Generator do it for you. The tool promises authority and confidence, though not accuracy.

www.ricksteves.com

Find out what the host of the popular NPR and PBS travel shows has to say about museums and galleries all over the world. Rick Steves gives you the inside skinny on what to skip and what to savor on your next art-inspired trip.


<http://travel.nytimes.com/travel/guides/art/overview.html>

Rejuvenate your art by taking a trip and let *The New York Times* guide you. Read articles, watch slide shows and take a peek at the art party circuit.

■ <http://watercolorblog.artistsnetwork.com>

Want to stay up to date on what's happening behind the scenes here at *Watercolor Artist*? Here, we dish out the latest art news, share outtakes from interviews with your favorite artists and let you know about not-to-miss exhibitions. Add your comments and subscribe for regular e-mail updates.

www.worldofwatercolor.com

Get your how-to fix at World of Watercolor, the online magazine for watercolor artists. 



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