

New Drawing Tablet Blog a Lifeline for Tech-Seeking Artists

Illustrator Vicky Young's new site TABLETS FOR ARTISTS provides immense detail on all types of digital drawing tablets for illustrators, photographers, and designers.

June 18, 2017 (FPRC) -- Illustrator and writer Vicky R. Young, who also has an MA in Art Education, got addicted to drawing tablets the minute Microsoft released the first tablet PC back in 2004. 'I was able to work a lot faster,' she explained, 'and change anything I wanted.' For someone who wasn't always sure what she wanted, it was love at first byte.

She had always used paint and watercolor, which were unforgiving media. Art directors would want rapid changes, and she would take their calls while blow-drying damp India ink. The ability to use a pressure-sensitive stylus, also called active pen, was a game-changer.

Vicky sat down with her tablet and Photoshop and created copies (she calls them forgeries) of her watercolors, studying how to use layers and effects. The work had an unusual look back then, and people would ask how she did it.

Nowadays, digital art is the norm. Tablets are also widely used in photo editing and even in video and music editing. Some also lend themselves to note-taking.

She has used the whole panoply of art tablet, from simple graphics tablets where you connect the tablet to a computer and draw while looking at the computer, to Cintiqs, large, bulky things you draw directly on, but are still attached to the computer.

Her favorite mode of tablet is the all-in-one, which is both computer and screen. Even these take many forms, from laptops to mobile tablets such as iPad Pro.

She could see that a lot of artists had questions about these devices, and companies often were not providing answers, either online or in brick-and-mortar stores.

She happened upon sites about how to start a blog, and Tablets for Artists was born. With her long experience as an artist and illustrator as well as writer, she was able to test, research, and clearly explain art tablets to readers.

'Even company sites and people who work in electronics stores are maddeningly short on info about their own products,' she says. 'They often don't know which computers take active pens, or if they do, what type it is.'

She took it upon herself to find and publicize missing info. She made the rounds of electronics stores with her arsenal of active pens to see what worked on what. She had never been to Vegas, but now attends CES as press, hustling to get the scoop on new releases before they hit the shelves.

Though not a computer geek, as a child she was a member of the Radio Shack battery-of-the-month club. She's comfortable around tech. But her passion is art.

Drawing tablets are now a standard for those in graphic art and illustration. Publishers expect digital

files. In just the past two years, there has been a huge proliferation of products that have gone beyond art and appeal to the general public.

Microsoft, Apple and computer maker Lenovo are heavily in on the action, with Wacom still cornering the market.

Vicky's favorite part of running the blog is answering the many tablet questions readers ask, some of which are challenging, but she goes to lengths to find answers.

Nowadays, her biggest struggle is finding time to draw.

Contact Information

For more information contact Vicky Young of Tablets for Artists (<http://www.tabletsforartists.com>)
4152362695

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