

STATE
LIBRARY
QUEENSLAND



**STATE⁷
LIBRARY**
QUEENSLAND

Design, Print, Create: A Digital Fabric Design Workshop

Jimmy Eng 2025



Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to land and as custodians of stories for millennia. We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we all meet today, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.



Introductions

Welcome

- Check in and get set up on Mac Studios and iPad with pencil
- Have you been to The Edge before?
- Why did you sign up for the workshop?
- SLQ account logins; you'll need these for the General Induction
- Photoshop account; you'll need one to use our free Creative Cloud apps



Health & Safety

- For all workshops at The Edge we like to familiarise participants with:
- Exit points & bathrooms
- Lab Risk Assessments
- Safe operating procedures



Workshop Overview

SESSION ONE

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview of The Edge (Getting Started)
- Overview of the day's agenda and key things participants need to decide;
 - What type of design; own illustration or a composite of copyright free images
 - Whether they want to submit something before next session or wait till the end
- Exploring the SLQ Collection
- Intro to Procreate; learn the basic interface & tools
- Illustrating in Procreate; using collection images for practice
- Pattern design; repeating designs, mirroring
- Time to design
- Setting up for printing; understanding the file requirements for printers

SESSION TWO

- Welcome back and check in
- Decide on any sewing toiles or patterns
- Work on finalising designs
- Sewing and making

FINAL STEPS

- Pick up your fabric after session two if you don't get it printed before then.
- Come back to The Edge and Open lab to work on finalising any of your items.
- Come back and use The Edge iPads to make your next master piece!



Tools

- iPad and pencil
- Apple/Drawing pencil/pen
- Procreate App (no account required)
- Photoshop (you will need an account, The Edge hosts the software for free)
- Sewing equipment; sewing machine, overlocker or hand sewing items

After this workshop, you can also borrow out the iPads and Apple Pencils from The Edge to use during Open Lab hours after completing a general induction, which we'll run through later.

Learn more here -
<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/visit/spaces/edge>



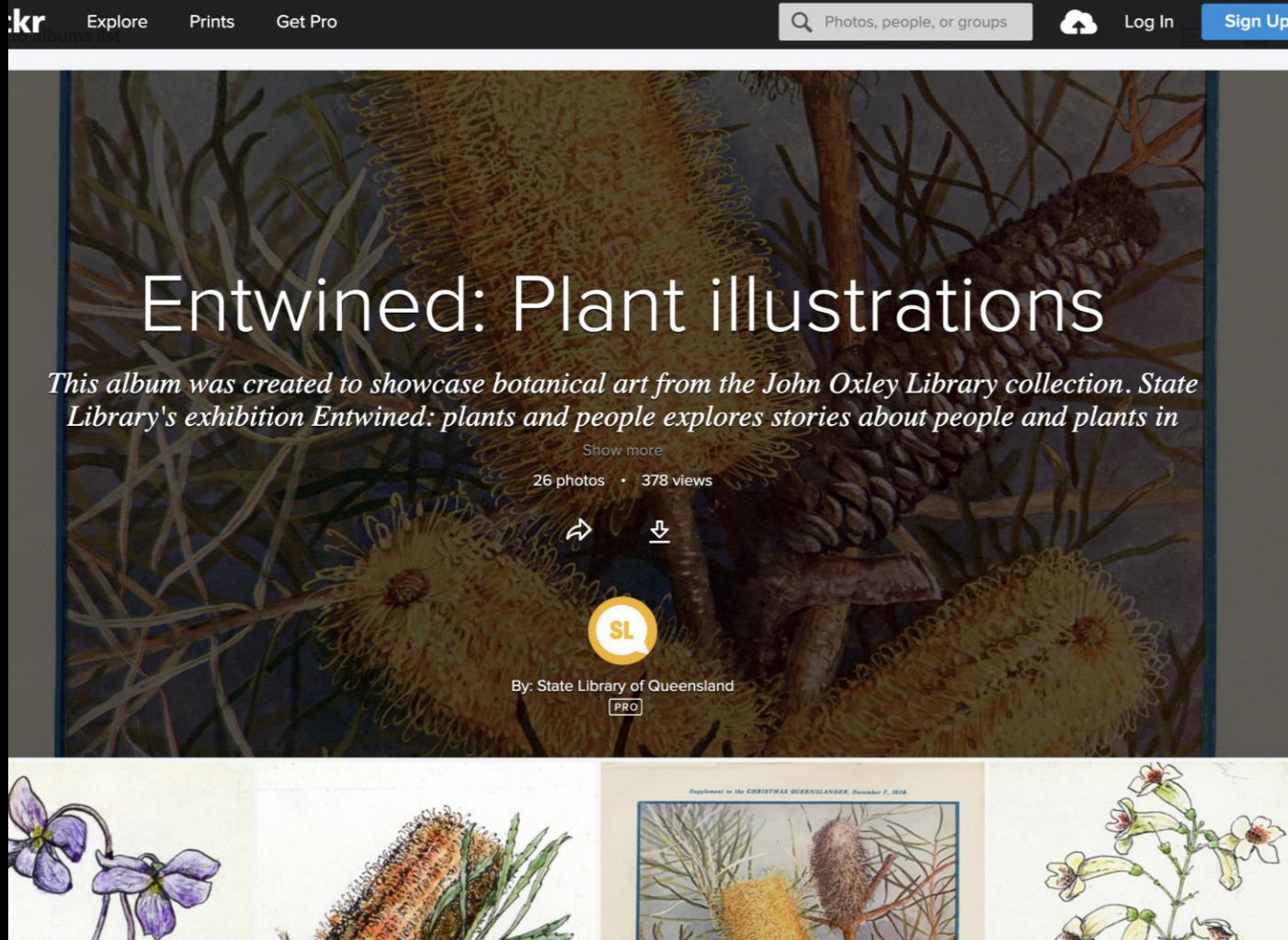
State Library Collections

The State Library Collections have a large range of copyright free images that we can use for inspiration when creating our artwork.

Later in the session we are going to be getting a feel for procreate by tracing and redrawing different botanical illustrations found via One Search.

You can use any out of copyright images to trace or use in your design.

 [Link](#)



Flickr

Flickr is a great way to look at curated albums of items that have a digital image in the State Library's collection.

- Queenslander Covers
- Labels
- Entwined

[SLQ Flickr collection link](#)

Printing Requirements (For our fabric supplier, Emerald Dreams)

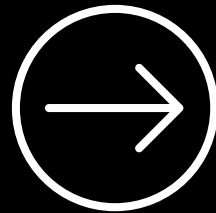
- Artwork should be supplied at the correct, or intended print size. Eg, if the print should be 150x100cm, the file should reflect this.
- If printing a repeated pattern, ensure the file is set to the full width of the fabric with no repeat lines. A repeat tile of 1 – 5 metres is preferred.
- Vector is best or Image files at 150dpi to 300dpi resolution at scale of print.
- EPS, TIFF, PDF or JPEG files in either RGB or CMYK colour profile accepted.
- The quality of our printing is determined by the quality of the artwork that you provide.
- Art with layers to be saved as Hi-Res flat images.
- If you are printing repeat print meterage, ensure your file is set-up in full repeat, to the width of the fabric with no repeat lines.



Artwork colours can differ significantly from what is viewed on a computer/device screen to what translates onto printed fabrics.

Procreate Overview

Let's get started



Creating a Canvas

Custom Canvas

Dimensions

Colour profile

Time-lapse settings

Canvas properties

Untitled Canvas Cancel Create

Width 2048 px

Height 2048 px

DPI 132

Maximum Layers 124

Millimetres 7 8 9 Backspace

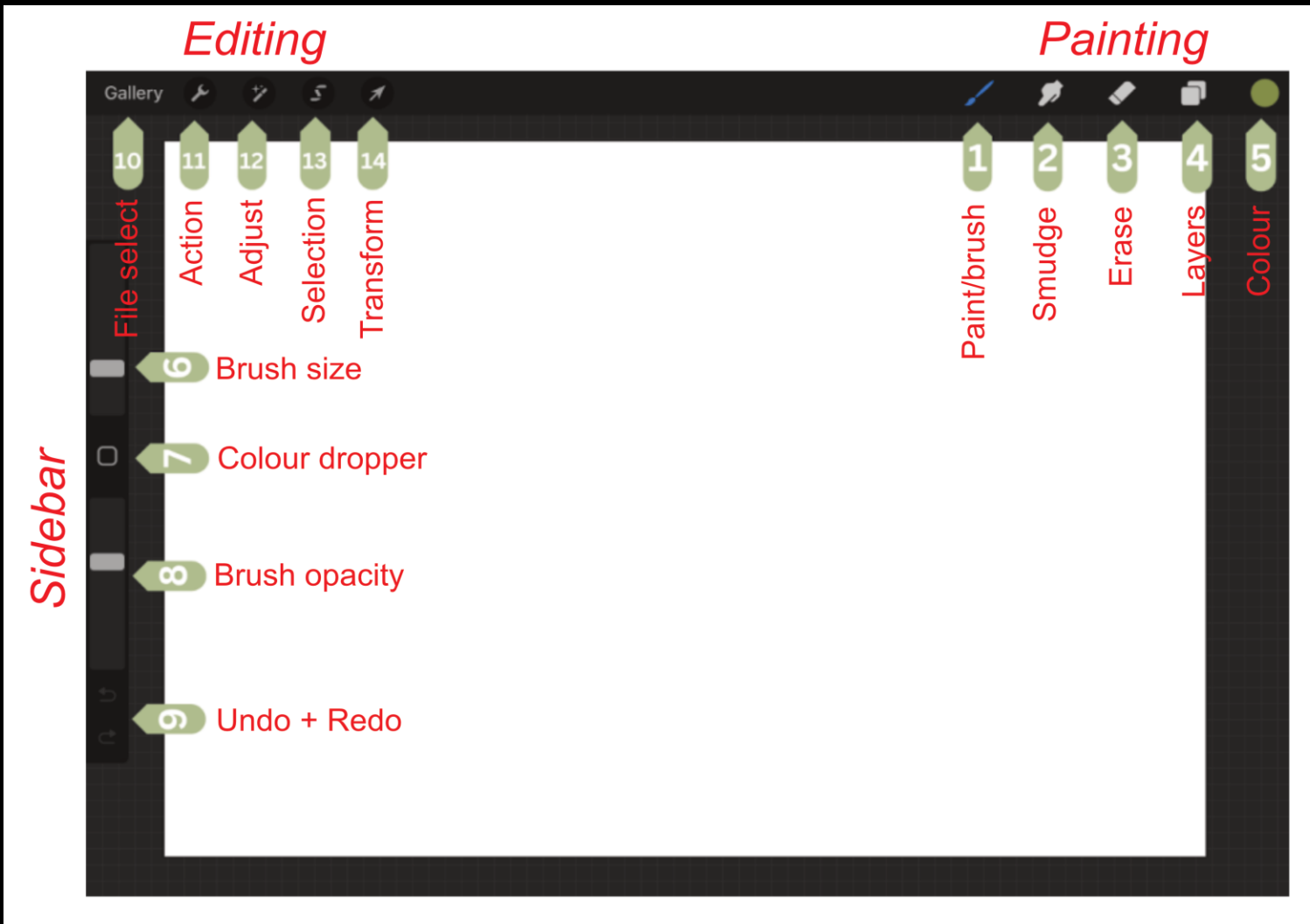
Centimetres 4 5 6 Next

Inches 1 2 3

Pixels 0 . Done

- To create a new canvas press on the '+' in the gallery view
- Choose which size, either the default or create a custom size
- Canvas sizes can be in mms, cms, inches or pixels.
- DPI or dot per inch can also be selected for the new canvas from this view.
- The colour profile can also be selected, it will default to RGB but CMYK is the preferred option for designs that will be printed.
- Canvas properties – background colour can be selected or made transparent, this can also be done later on.
- Once all these settings have been decided on, hit 'Create' to open our new canvas.

For our project we'll set the pixels to 3000 x 3000 and DPI to 150. This will give us a working space of 50cm x 50cm in HQ detail.



Interface Overview + Hand gestures

There are three sections of the Procreate interface.

These three sections can be broken down into;

- Painting Tools (Top right)
- Sidebar (left side)
- Editing Tools (top left)

Each section has its own set of tools

Hand Gestures/Shortcuts

- **Pinch to Zoom** - using two fingers place them on the canvas and move them together to zoom out or apart to zoom in.
- **Pinch-Twist to Rotate** - pinch the canvas and twist your fingers in a circular motion to rotate the canvas.
- **Quick Pinch to Fit to Screen** - Same gesture as Pinch to Zoom but done at a faster rate. Do the same gesture in reverse to return to the previous view.
- **Two-Finger Tap to Undo** - Tapping two fingers together on the canvas to undo. Rapidly undo a bunch of actions by holding two fingers.
- **Three-Finger Tap to Redo** - Tap three fingers together on the canvas to redo. Rapidly redo a bunch of actions by holding three fingers.
- **Three-finger Swipe to Cut/Copy/Paste** - Swipe three fingers down on the canvas to bring up the Cut/Copy/Paste option menu.
- **Three-finger Swipe to erase selection** – Swipe left and right repeatedly to erase a selected object or entire layer if empty
- **Four-Finger Tap for Full Screen** - tapping four fingers on the screen will enter Full-Screen mode with the interface disappearing. To bring the interface back, four-finger tap again or tap the full-screen button in the top left corner.

Turn on Brush cursor

(Action/Preference/Set Brush cursor on/Use advanced settings to adjust)

Turn off finger drawing and use Apple pen only

(Preference/General/turn off Enable painting with finger)

Turn off Apple pencil double tap

(In iPad Settings/Accessibility/Apple pencil/turn off Double tap)

All the gestures can be changed under the actions tab (wrench icon button), then Prefs and Gesture Controls to open the Gesture Controls panel.



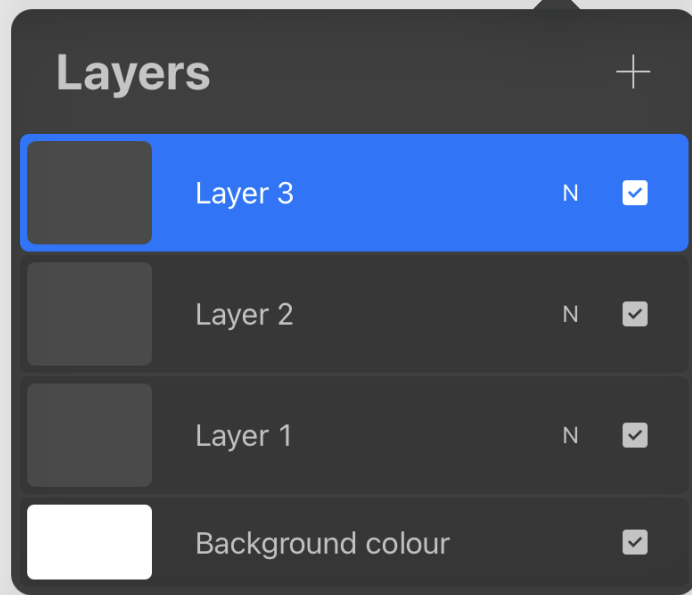
Brush Overview

Brush options

With Procreate you can create using an apple pencil or even your finger (you can turn this function off also).

Painting options:

- Paint/brush
- Smudge
- Erase
- Layers
- Colour select



Introduction to Layers

Layers are super helpful in separating elements of your artwork, allowing you to make changes to one layer on the artwork without affecting the others.

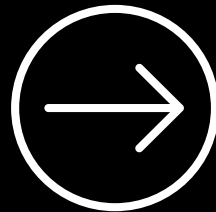
Layers can be grouped into a folder, copied, pinned and hidden.

The bottom of the layer menu is the background layer with a colour. This is where the colour for the background can be selected or turned off completely for exporting transparent PNG files.

Design Overview

In this lesson we'll learn how to:

- *Import an image for design use*
 - *Method 1: Use images to create design objects*
- *Method 2: Draw your own objects using images as a template*





Use images to create a design object

We will be:

- Selecting free-use images
- Importing into Procreate
- 'Cleaning' the images to be objects

TIP: Renaming all the layers as you go will be very helpful in organisation!

Use images to create a design object

1/ Find and save some images onto the iPad photo album

2/ In your canvas tap the action tab (wrench), select insert a file/image and then select the image. OR From main/file select page tap import or photo in the top right corner. Copy the image (three fingers swipe down select copy). Go to your working file and paste into your canvas (three fingers swipe down select paste)

3/ To 'clean up' the edges of an image tap selection, in submenu select automatic, tap the area you want removed, adjust the tolerance by sliding the pencil to the right to view what's being picked up and erase (three fingers swipe left and right repeatedly). Use the erase tool to clean the edge and missing artifacts.

To cut a shape out of an image tap selection icon, in submenu select shape you prefer, highlight that area, drag three fingers down on screen and click copy and paste

4/ You can manipulate all your images however you like using the adjustment and selection tools

5/ Repeat for every object you wish to use on your final design



Draw your design

We will be:

- Selecting free-use images
- Importing into Procreate
- Using the images as a template to draw our objects

Draw your design

TIP: Renaming all the layers as you go will be very helpful in organisation!

1/ Find and save some images onto the iPad photo album

2/ In your canvas tap the action tab (wrench), select insert a file/image and then select the image. OR From main/file select page tap import or photo in the top right corner. Copy the image (three fingers swipe down select copy). Go to your working file and paste into your canvas (three fingers swipe down select paste)

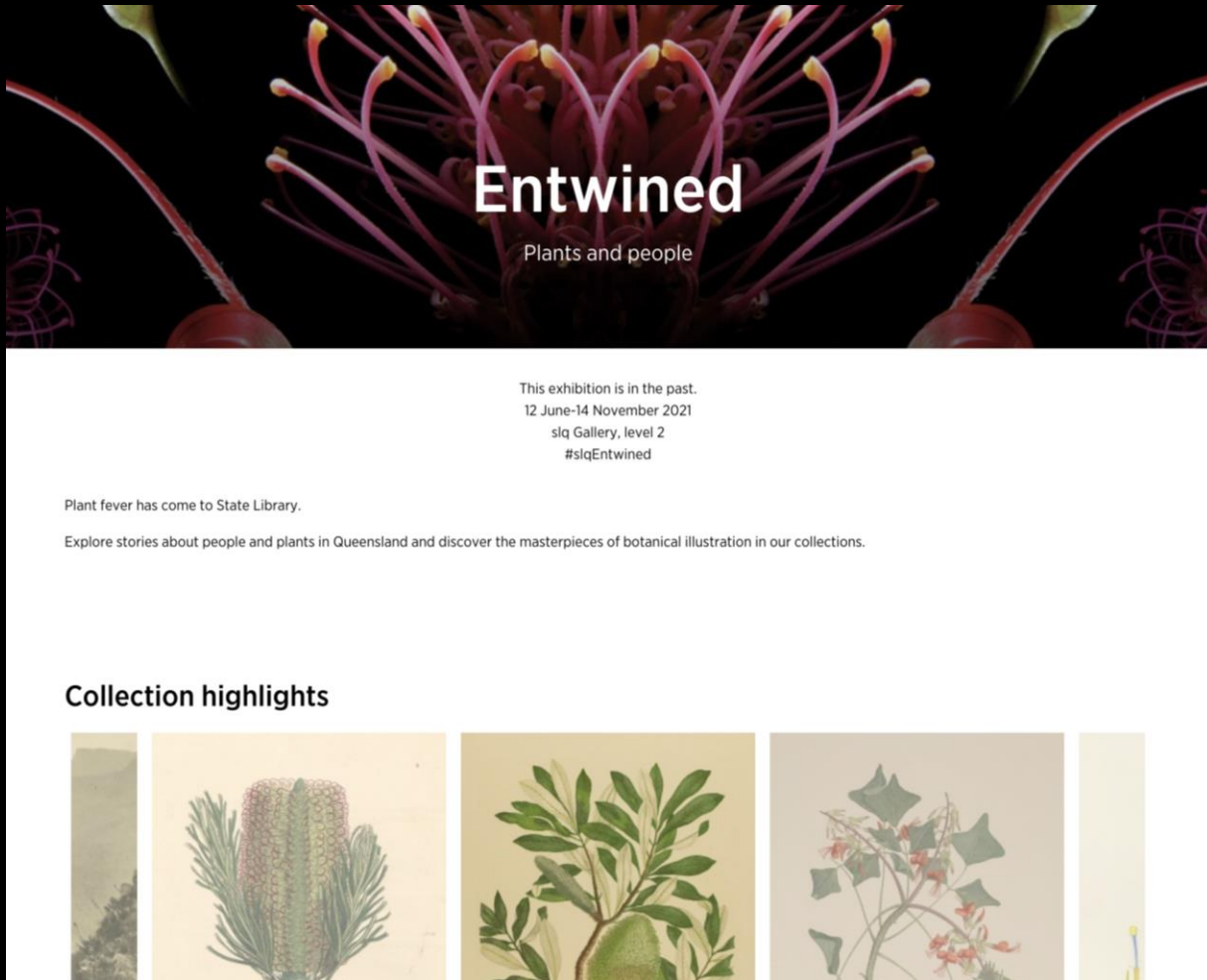
3/ Lower your image layer opacity (click N on layer name to bring up submenu) and either set it as a reference layer (tap layer name then reference) or then lock the layer (swipe layer name to left and tap lock)

4/ Make three new layers (recommended to call them lines, details and fill) and use your brushes and colour wheel to copy your image. Use more layers if you prefer

5/ Repeat for every object you wish to use on your final design

Helpful tips

- Brushes will behave similarly to real life materials. Pastels will blend better than watercolours, pencils will be more solid etc... The Apple pencil is also pressure sensitive and angle sensitive!
- Stop and start when you erase as when you undo it will erase everything you've done in one action
- Figure out a good practise of how you want to add shadows or colours. One technique is to do the fill first and colour in your majority colour, then the darkest shadows, then the mid shadows and repeat. Then create your outline and clean up the outer edges



Entwined: Plants Practice Drawing

- Past exhibition focused on botanical illustrations within the collection.
- Pick an illustration and start drawing!
- Start with the linework and then try adding some colour.

[Collection link](#)

Strong contrast



Complementary

Most harmonious



Analogous

Bold + vibrant



Triadic



Split complementary

High contrast,
more variety



Rectangular
Tetradic

Complex range



Square

Playful + striking

Colour Harmony

Deciding on your colour scheme can affect how its perceived through its mood and how people feel about it. The colour wheel can be divided into primary, secondary and tertiary colours.

Colour comprises of four key elements/qualities:

- Hue (the position on the wheel, brightest version of that colour)
- Saturation (vibrancy of the colour)
- Value (lightness and darkness)
- Tempertaure (warmth or coolness)

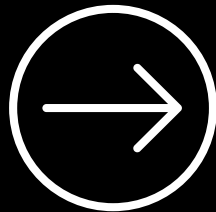
Monochromatic colour scheme

One base colour/hue. Looks simple, cohesive and organized.

Repeating Pattern Overview

In this lesson we'll learn how to:

- *Create a repeating pattern*
- *Create a repeating pattern using symmetry guides*





**Method 1: Create a
repeating pattern**

TIP: Renaming all the layers as you go will be very helpful in organisation!

1/ Create your canvas size

2/ Draw/import/cut and paste your main object/s. Do not allow it to go over the edge of your canvas

3/ Group all layers together

4/ Duplicate twice (lock and hide one layer for editing)

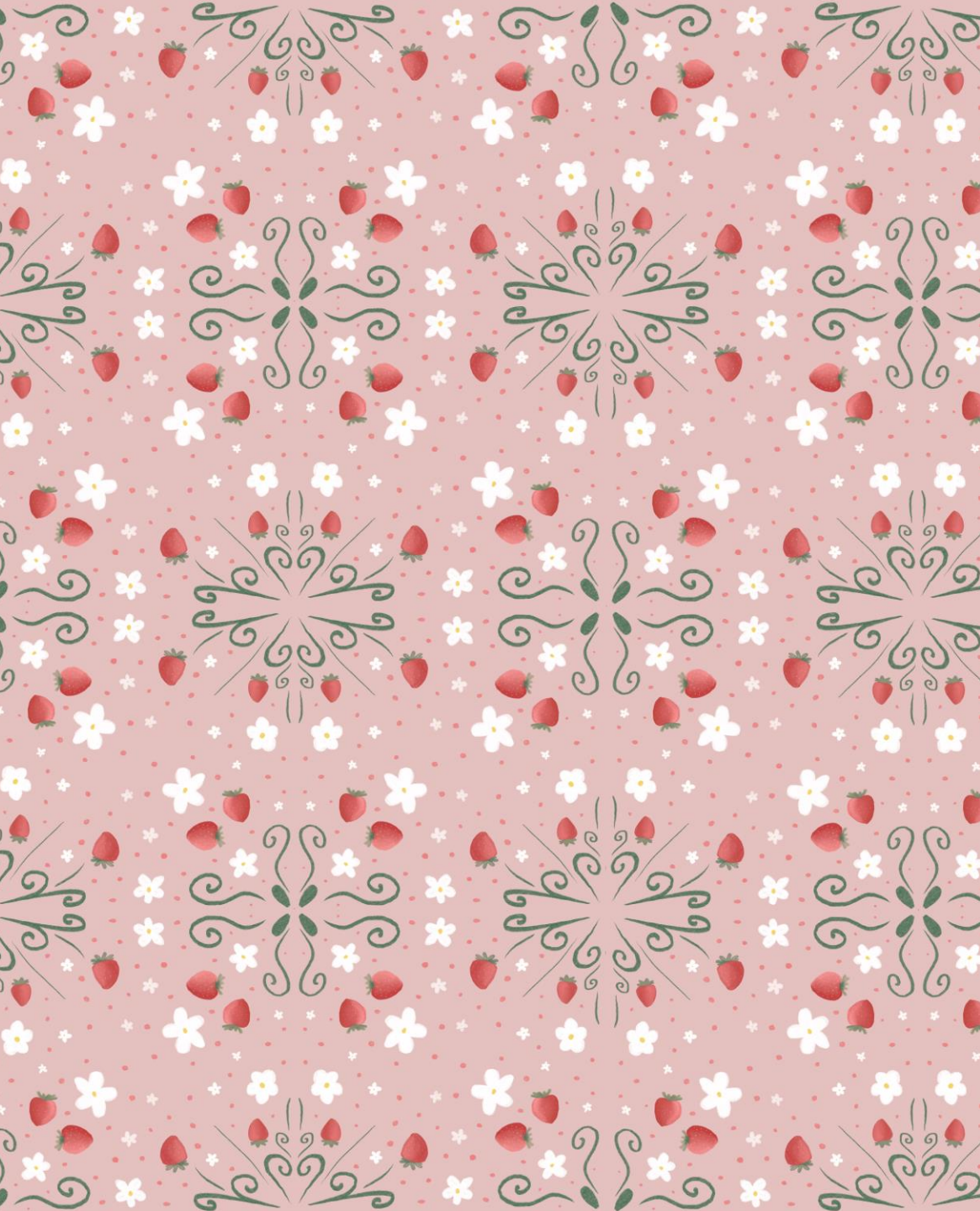
5/ Tap Selection Transform tool, click on Snapping in the submenu, turn on magnetics and snapping and distance and velocity are set to max

6/ Drag the first layer to the left of the canvas so half of the image is visible, ensure that the edge guideline snaps to an orange line (the side and horizontal centre ones). Do the same but to the right with the other layer

7/ In a new layer add additional elements to the space in between your main objects. They must also not touch the border of your canvas. Group the two main layers plus the new one and duplicate. Move one group up and snap to edge and the other down.

8/ It's done! You can add even more objects if you wish now but once you're happy select all the layers, duplicate and flatten the copy

9/ The flattened layer is what you'll export as a PDF but check if the tile you've made will tessellate. Copy this layer three times and shrink each layer to a corner and check if the horizontal and vertical centre lines show any gaps/misalignments. If so then go to step 4 and start again. The main issue will be snapping to the orange lines; this must be accurate.



**Method 2: Create a
repeating pattern using
symmetry guides**

1/ Create your canvas size

2/ Set a colour to your background. On a new layer drag a darker colour to fill that layer. Tap Selection Transform tool, click on Snapping in the submenu, turn on magnetics and snapping and distance and velocity are set to max. Select Transform (arrow icon) and rotate the layer using the green dot to 45 degrees. Resize the diamond shape to fit within the canvas using the blue dots

3/ Lower the opacity down to under 20%. The diamond layer is a guide, and everything will be drawn within this diamond shape. Lock the diamond shape by swiping to the right (on the layer) and clicking the lock button. Turn on symmetry by going to actions (wrench tool), clicking the canvas button, and turning on the Drawing Guide. Tap Edit Drawing Guide, click the symmetry button, click on options, select the Quadrant option, and click Done. This option will ensure that what you draw in one quadrant will repeat in the other ones, helping you create a repeating pattern.

4/ Create a new layer by selecting the plus tool in Layers and click on the layer to open the options tab and select the Drawing Assist button. This will apply the drawing guide symmetry settings to this new layer

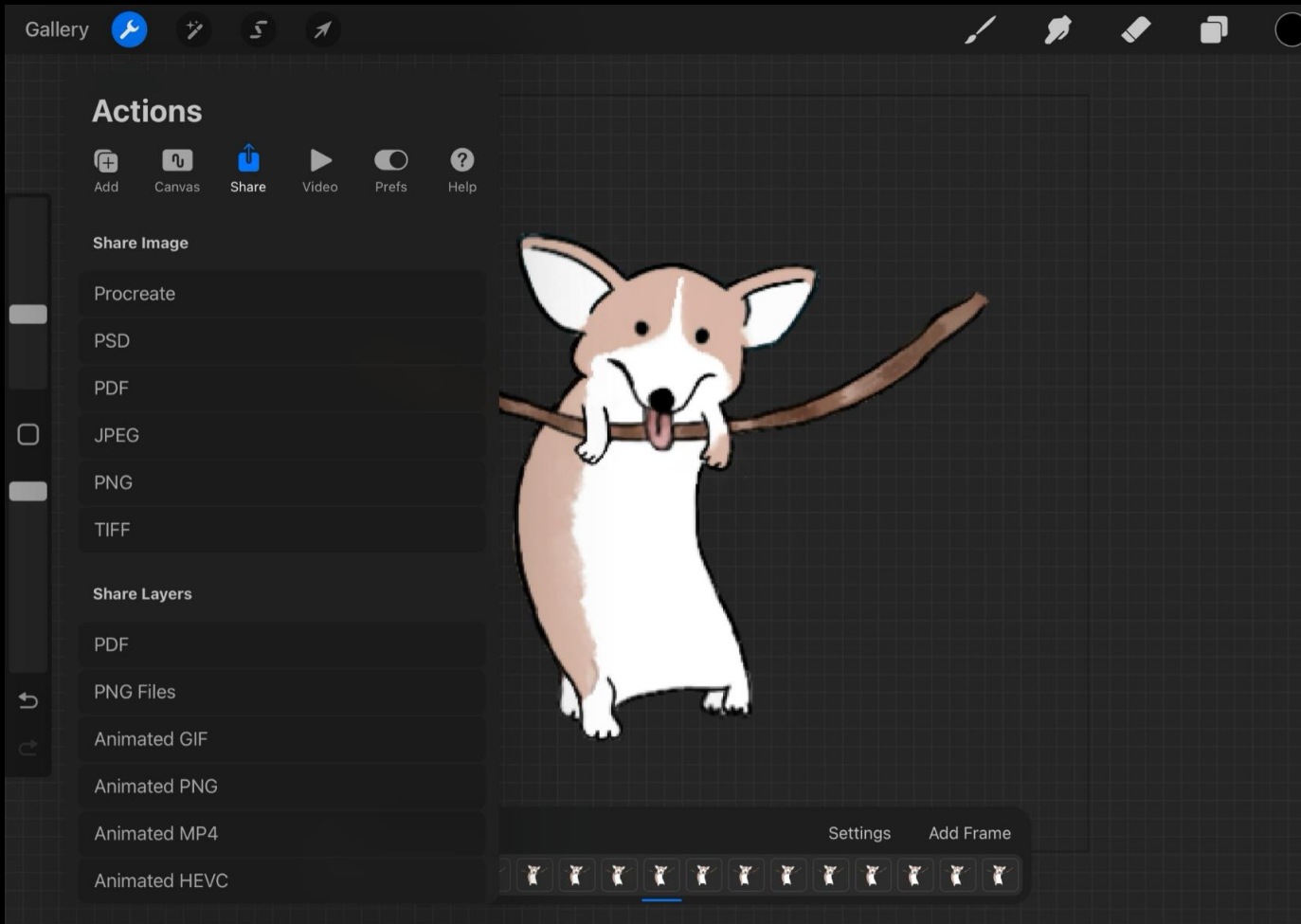
5/ Draw what you want for your pattern but ensure you stay within the diamond shape. If you want to add more layers and depth to your pattern, ensure you turn on drawing assist for each layer. If you do not turn this assist on, whatever you draw will not be repeated in the other quadrants. OR add images to your diamond shape and mirror and rotate each object snapping them to their adjacent object

6/ Once done, turn off the drawing guide for a moment, go to Actions and toggle it off under the canvas option. Group all of your layers together. Turn off the background colour and diamond guide shape. Take three fingers, swipe down on the screen, and then select and copy all. Then swipe down three fingers again and hit paste

7/ After hitting paste, a merged copy of the group, known as an inserted image, will appear in the layers tab. Turn off (hide) the original group

8/ Add some colour in the top left-hand corner and the bottom right-hand corner by drawing a triangle that goes passed the canvas edge so Procreate will select the whole canvas. Now, duplicate the merged layer (inserted image) four times. Select one of the layers with the transform tool and ensure snapping is on. Then, move the pattern to the top of the canvas until it snaps and an orange guideline appears. Then, move it over to the left, ensuring it snaps. Move another layer to the top and ensure the orange guideline appears. Then, move it over to the right till it snaps. Repeat this with the other two layers. Move the layer to the bottom until the guidelines appear, then to the bottom left until it snaps. Repeat this with the other layer until it snaps to the bottom right. After you have moved all these images, you will have a repeating tile, but ensure you remove the little marks made in the corners. Merge all these layers into one final merged layer and your tile is done

**Exporting your file for
fabric printing**



Saving files + Sharing

Saving files:

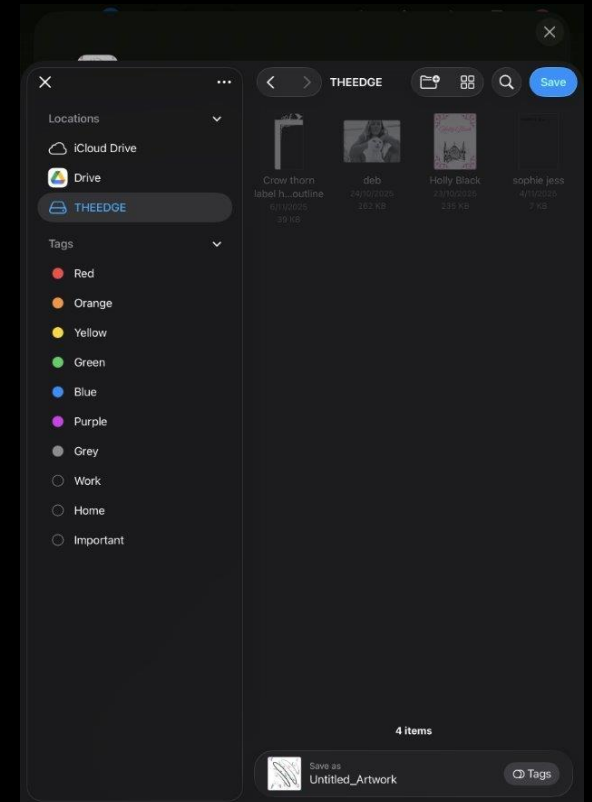
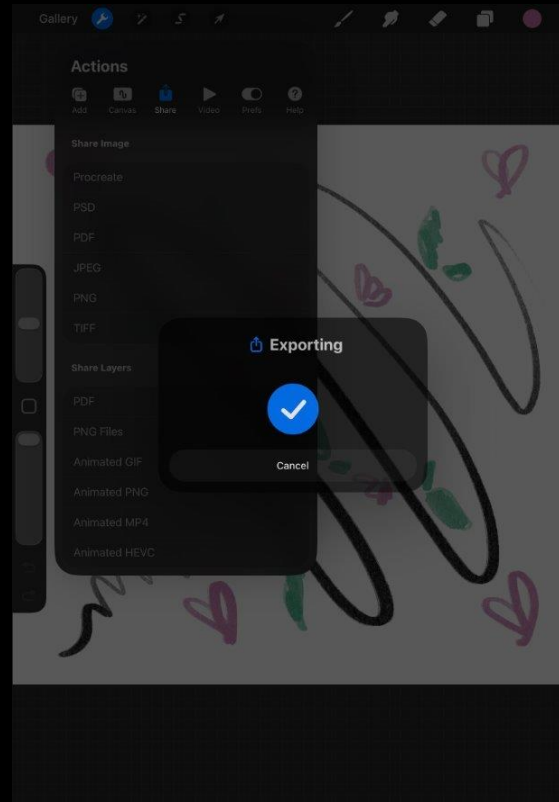
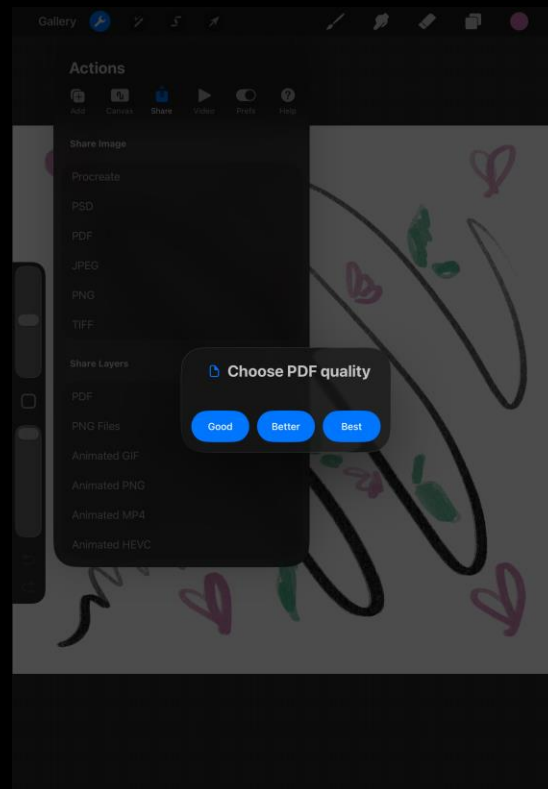
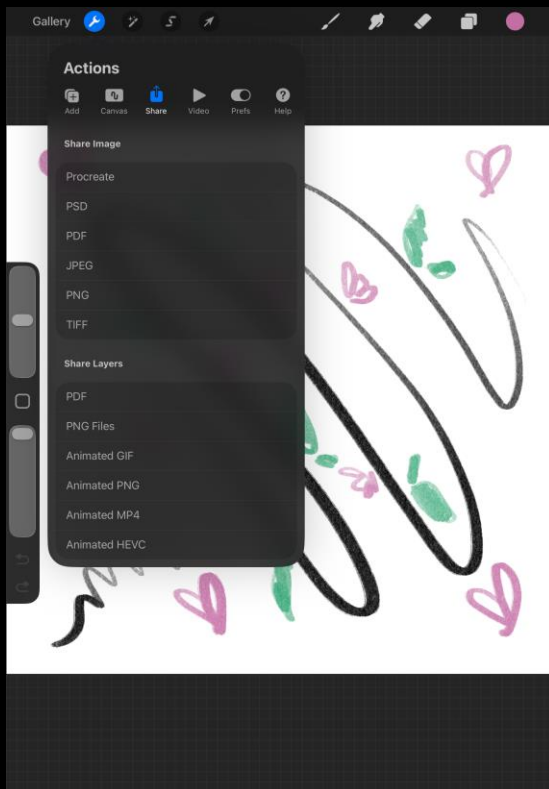
New canvases are always automatically saved into the Procreate gallery. Within this gallery, you can create stacks to help organise your artwork.

Sharing your work:

Procreate has a pretty easy way of sharing your artwork with friends, family or the world. You can share the artwork via the Gallery or the actual project file itself.

Export Process

- Navigate to the 'Actions' icon and select 'Share'
- Choose 'PDF' and select 'Best' quality
- You will see the blue check-mark as it is exporting
- Select your save location, and click 'Save'



Tips and Troubleshooting

Action

Some of the object I move has been cut off

Steps/Solution

When you select Transform and move the object outside of the canvas and deselect it, Procreate will crop the object outside of the canvas. Keep objects within the canvas before deselecting Transform

Notes

You can always undo your choices

My fill is showing a fuzzy outline and not a solid fill

<https://folio.procreate.com/discussions/5/17/18318>

I keep getting random strokes appearing from my hand resting on the screen

- Tap Action icon
- Tap Pref submenu
- Tap Gesture controls
- Turn off Enable painting with finger

This will still preserve the touch commands such as Undo and Redo

Tips and Troubleshooting (Cont)

Action

White outlines appear when I repeat my pattern tile ie the pattern tile isn't matching up

Steps/Solution

The most common issue of misalignment is that when you moved your layers to the left and right and/or up and down they weren't fully snapping to the edge of the canvas correctly. You MUST see an orange line appear along the edge AND centre of your canvas before deselecting your layer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4eNFCeVcto>

Notes

Hiding all your layers that you aren't using helps the program ignore what objects it will snap to and will help you visually

Resizing Line Art Without Losing ANY Quality

<https://www.thepigeonletters.com/blogs/1/procreate-resizing-hack>

What size is my custom artboard in cm measurements?

<https://www.pixelconverter.com/pixel-to-size-converter/>

3000 x 3000 pixels at 300 dpi/ppi (dots/pixels per inch) equates to 25.4cm x 25.4cm. This is a high-quality level print size

Further Learning Resources (Internal)

- 101 Workshop - Procreate -
<https://wiki.slq.qld.gov.au/doku.php?id=workshops:public:procreate>
- Create a Seamless Pattern in Procreate -
https://wiki.slq.qld.gov.au/doku.php?id=facilities:slq_wiki:seamless_patterning_in_procreate
- Animating in Procreate -
https://wiki.slq.qld.gov.au/doku.php?id=facilities:slq_wiki:procreateactivities

Further Learning Resources (External)

- Handbook to Procreate tools and UI - <https://help.procreate.com/procreate/handbook/introduction>
- Intro to Procreate - The Basics for Beginners in 10 Minutes (Luma_Llama) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oo8_NODWjbw
- 27+ Procreate Tips You Have to Know (Alanna Flowers – Paperlike) - <https://paperlike.com/blogs/paperlikers-insights/procreate-tips>
- 10 Common Procreate Problems and How to Solve Them (UMA Technology) - <https://umatechnology.org/10-common-procreate-problems-and-how-to-solve-them/>
- Color Theory for beginners (Sarah Renae Clark) - <https://sarahrenaeclark.com/color-theory-basics/>
- Color schemes (Copic markers)
- https://copicmarkers.com/blogs/educational/analogous-complimentary-and-split-complementary-color-schemes?_pos=4&_sid=8f783561e&_ss=r
- https://copicmarkers.com/blogs/educational/color-schemes-2?_pos=6&_sid=8f783561e&_ss=r
- Let's draw a tessellation! - in Procreate (Yaplaw's comics) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmfCjBD9WeY>
- Easy repeating patterns in Procreate (Dawn Nicole)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r3BRXSbXLA>
- <https://artignition.com/color-temperature-in-art/>

THANKS FOR ATTENDING

Please complete our survey that will be sent out via
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Contact us on appliedcreativity@slq.qld.gov.au





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