

Painting a Whole New Picture *Corel Painter 8 Enhances Creative Options*

There was a time, not too long ago, when I was unable to fully express my visualization on film. The image was correct, but it just didn't compare to what I was envisioning. Even with color manipulation in Photoshop, I found it impossible to create the colors and textures I desired.

With Corel Painter, I found that I could create the images I envisioned and experiment with different variations of each. The vast selection of brushes, colors, and textures that Painter offers is mind-boggling.

Ultimately, as I continued experimenting with Painter and its many features, a whole new world opened up.

The process is simple. After 20 years of having a storefront studio, my work is now all on location. Clients enjoy the flexibility of being photographed at the park, the beach, at home, or elsewhere.

I shoot with a Hasselblad and 150mm lens, scanning in the images, but digital originals can be used as well. Using batch actions in Photoshop, the scans are edited, cropped, color corrected, and prepared for a sales presentation to the client. A low-resolution file is created and used to sell the images.

To sell paintings created in Corel Painter, first you paint a small version using scripts. This time-saving feature lets you recreate the painting at a higher resolution after the sale has been made.

Working closely with your clients, you can show them what you envision the painting to be and then initiate any changes that they request for the finished piece.

Corel Painter allows you to be both a photographer and a fine



A rich palette of colors intensifies the emotional feeling in this painting (above) turning a simple and sweet photograph (right) into a powerful painting.

artist. Many of my clients collect original art pieces, and hang my images right along side them. Photographs enhanced through Corel's Painter software are particularly personal.

The work that is created in Painter can be sold as an add-on to your customer's entire photography order. My clients commission my portrait work because of the paintings: the photographs are their secondary purchase.

Perhaps the thing I love most about Painter is that it gives you the ability to create colors that only exist in your imagination. With the built-in Paint Mixer, you can create your own personal sets of colors that you use in each painting. My clients definitely recognize my dis-

tinctive color palette, my signature colors.

The Painter software is incredibly powerful and, similar to other professional applications, it can also be somewhat complex. Nevertheless, Painter is easy to learn once you grasp the basic concepts.

The joy of Painter is being able to work with a variety of brushes that perfectly emulate their non-digital counterparts. An oil brush paints like an oil brush and a watercolor brush lets you see the paint drip. The beauty is that these brushes and media can all be mixed onto one canvas, turning pho-



tos into works of art that could never be created before. Brushes can be customized and fine-tuned to your exact specifications,

so each photographer's creation will look dramatically different, even if the same tools were used to create them.

The works of art you can create using Corel Painter 8 enable you to capture your subjects in an incredibly personal way and express your own unique vision. ♦

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For more details on Corel Painter 8, visit www.corel.com