

Air Painting with Corel Painter Freestyle and the Leap Motion Controller: A Revolutionary New Way to Paint!

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1. Introduction

The feel of air painting is like none other! It is like being a dancer, conductor and magician all wrapped up in one. As legendary science fiction writer and visionary, Arthur C. Clarke, famously said, "any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic". Air painting is indeed magical! Imagine being able to control every aspect of the painting process through only gesture and movement of your fingers in the air, and being able to paint with up to ten simultaneous brush strokes controlled by the movement of your fingers and thumbs on both hands. This is now a reality with the combination of the revolutionary new Leap Motion Controller providing 3-D motion-generated input data to the Corel Painter Freestyle application. It is the powerful synergy of these two complementary technologies applied to fine art observational painting that is the focus of this talk.

2. Exposition

Artist and Corel Painter Master Jeremy Sutton, author of the Painter Creativity Digital Artist's Handbook series of books, has worked closely with Leap Motion and Corel to help develop the air painting user interface. He is named as a co-inventor on Corel's pending patent application for controlling color selection using gestures in a vision system. In this talk, Jeremy will demonstrate live air painting. He will take you step-by-step through the capabilities of the Corel Painter Freestyle software, showing how to choose, adjust and control brushes, color and texture, undo and save, all through motion in the air. Jeremy will share examples of his air paintings, one of which is shown here in this abstract. While demonstrating air painting, and with reference to his artworks, Jeremy will address the following commonly asked questions:

1. Is air painting just a gimmick or a serious new painting technology suitable for professional use?
2. Does air painting give you as much control as when using a Wacom pen tablet?
3. Will the Leap Motion Controller replace or complement the Wacom pen tablet?
4. What distinguishes painting in the air from painting with other media?
5. Do you need to wear anything special, or attach anything special to your hand, to use the Leap Motion Controller?
6. What difference does holding a tool, such as a chopstick or a paintbrush, make versus painting with a finger?
7. Is air painting tiring on the arms?
8. Is the lack of resistance an obstacle to producing art?
9. Can you paint from photo reference in Corel Painter Freestyle?

In addition to addressing these questions, Jeremy will also share tips on air painting technique, including his approach to leaning in and out of the hover plane for fine brush control.



Figure 1. Air painting using the Leap Motion Controller and Corel Painter Freestyle.

3. Results

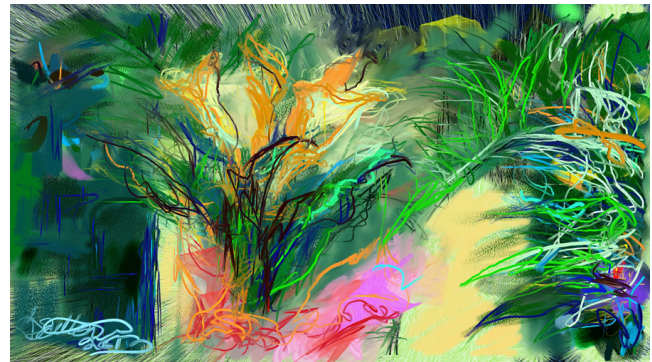


Figure 2. The resulting still life shown being created in Figure 1.

4. Conclusions

Air painting is a powerful new way to paint that has appeal across a broad spectrum of potential users, from enthusiasts and hobbyists who want to have fun and experiment, to professional painters, illustrators, cartoonists and sketch artists who are looking for new looks in their artwork. It is well worth putting the time and effort into getting used to the three dimensional painting and hover zones. The reward is the magical and fun experience of painting in the air!

Reference URLs

<http://www.paintboxtv.com/air-painting/>
<https://www.leapmotion.com/>
<http://www.corel.com/>