

art galleries

With the summer in full swing, get out and about for some inspiration from your local art gallery

The Barbican

Address: Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

Web: www.barbican.org.uk

Phone: 0207 6384141

The Barbican is a rare treat for the artist. Housing a diverse range of world-class art – from dance and music to painting and film – under one roof, The Barbican is unique experience.

Since opening its doors to the public in 1982, almost 27 million people have visited the seven-acre site. Split into two areas, The Barbican Art Gallery and The Curve house the museum's collection of visual arts. The Curve is home to a series of new commissions created especially for the gallery by contemporary artists while the Art Gallery showcases work of more renowned artists, with a dynamic mix of art, photography, architecture and design.

Hosting a range of exhibitions, as well as organising touring exhibitions that travel the world, every visit to The Barbican is a new experience. Currently, a visit to the Art Gallery will see you taking a walk through futuristic cities, while in The Curve up-and-coming artist Tomas Saraceno will present his vision of the future.

Although some of the exhibitions and events at The Barbican are free, you'll find a small (around £6) fee applicable to some of the occasions. For more information on any of the aspects of The Barbican or to see what's on, check out the website. A fantastically easy to navigate and informative online portal, it'll



Advanced
Photoshop
Recommends

when your appetite for the real thing. Upcoming exhibitions listed include Future City: Experiment and Utopia in Architecture, which runs until mid-September (check out this issue's Bulletin for more), and coverage of inventive sculptor Richard Wilson's work later in the year. You'd be mad to miss it! ■

Rating: **5/5**

Tate Liverpool

Address: Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4BB

Web: www.tate.org.uk/liverpool

Phone: 0151 702740

One of the family of four Tate museums, Tate Liverpool is situated in the heart of the Liverpool Docks. With the fame of its two London-based siblings the Tate Liverpool is often overlooked, yet after opening nearly two decades ago in 1988 it's now as well-established and well-loved as the other galleries.

Situated in a converted warehouse, the museum has brought some of the UK's best-loved art to the north west and has played a part in the regeneration of the run-down docks area. As well as housing an impressive range of 20th and 21st-century artwork, the Tate Liverpool has a fantastic range of temporary exhibitions of contemporary art. Showcasing the work of modern artists like Bruce Nauman, whose work has inspired artists since the Seventies, the museum's exhibition programme is international in scope.

Future events to look out for include Liverpool Biennial: International 06, where Tate Liverpool will be collaborating with the Biennial's exhibition team to realise new commissions by many of the most interesting artists from around the world, some showing for the first time in the UK.

Although the museum may have fewer exhibitions than some based in the country's capital, Tate Liverpool does a



fantastic job of bringing a wide-ranging, diverse selection of artworks to Liverpool. And from a city that has been voted the European Capital of Culture for 2008, we'd expect no less. Set to become stratospherically cool. ■

Rating: **4/5**

Day tripping

Modern Art Oxford

Address: 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX1 1BP

Web: www.modernartoxford.org.uk

Phone: 01865 722733

Proving that to be great, you don't have to be based in London is Modern Art Oxford. The largest gallery devoted to modern and contemporary art in the south east, it has a constantly changing programme of art events that maintain its reputation for high-quality exhibitions.

Currently presenting Out Of Beirut, a comprehensive exhibition of the work of artists, performers and writers emerging from the formerly war-torn city, it's a thought-provoking view.

To keep you up to date on what's on at the Modern Art Oxford, check out the Stay In Touch section of the website, where you can sign up for regular email updates. ■

Rating: **3/5**

The Saatchi Gallery

Address: Currently moving venue

Web: www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk

Phone: TBA

The past home of exhibitions from Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol and Boris Mikhailov, The Saatchi Gallery has always aimed to present the work of young artists or those not often showcased in the UK. Now reaching an audience of around 600,000 a year, The Saatchi Gallery has had to find itself a new home.

Moving to Chelsea, the gallery will open again in early 2007 in the Duke of York's HQ, Sloane Square. Occupying the entire 50,000-square-foot building, The Saatchi Gallery will encompass a bookshop, educational facilities and a café. For a virtual tour of the new gallery, visit the website at www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk. Let's hope the real thing is as good as the virtual museum. ■

Rating: **3/5**

The Animation Art Gallery

Address: 13-14 Great Castle Street, London, W1W 8LS

Web: www.theanimationartgallery.com

Phone: 0207 2551456

From the best original animation cels, sketches and concept art to gallery exclusive commissioned pop art canvasses, this art gallery is a joy to look at or buy from.

Hosting a range of events that see the voices of Bart and Lisa Simpson come to London, or a Hat Party in celebration of new Dr Seuss artwork, The Animation Art Gallery provides probably the most fun you can have at an art gallery. Situated off of London's Regent Street or at the new Glasgow gallery in Debenhams on Argyle Street, you can pick up a reasonably priced piece of art that could really mean something to you. ■

Rating: **5/5**

Advanced
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Recommends

Day tripping

Victoria and Albert

Address: Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL
Web: www.vam.ac.uk
Phone: 0207 9422000

If you want a diverse range of exhibitions, events and collections, look no further than the V&A. From *Modernism: Designing a New World to Leonardo da Vinci: Experience, Experiment and Design*, there's something for everyone at one of the country's best-looking museums.

Situated just a stone's throw from the Science Museum and the National History Museum, these three free attractions can make for the perfect day of inspiration. Whether you want to draw the world's largest mammal or be inspired by a costume collection, there's plenty to look at. For the museum's full listing of events, visit its user-friendly site. ■

Rating: **5/5**

Design Museum

Address: Shad Thames, London SE1 2YD
Web: www.designmuseum.org
Phone: 0870 8339955

The host of the *Designer Of The Year* exhibition earlier this year, the Design Museum is one of the world's leading museums of modern and contemporary design.

With a website that attracts over one and a half million visitors a year, The Design Museum has one of the world's most popular design sites. Providing a huge and accessible online research archive, the website has won numerous awards in its own right.

The museum is no second-class institution either. Celebrating design in every form – fashion, architecture, graphics, multimedia – over 200,000 people visited last year alone and the museum has recently taken on the role as the UK's largest museum provider of design educational resources. ■

Rating: **5/5**

The Photographers' Gallery

Address: 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2H 7HY
Web: www.photonet.org.uk
Phone: 0207 8311772

The Photographers' Gallery, the first independent gallery in Britain devoted to photography, was founded in 1971.

Developing a reputation as the UK's primary venue for contemporary photography, one of the gallery's major achievements has been to establish photography within a wide viewing public, making it popular and accessible. The gallery was the first in the country to show key names such as André Kertész, Jacques-Henri Lartigue and Irving Penn, and has an integrated programme of exhibitions to present the most innovative developments in photography as well as nurturing new talent. Currently expanding to envelop a new space on Ramillies Street, London, this gallery is on the up. ■

Rating: **4/5**

Gallery of Modern Art

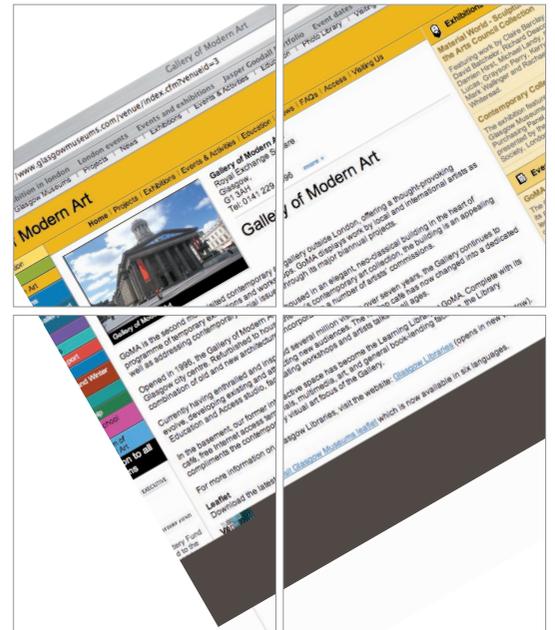
Address: Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow, G1 3AH
Web: www.glasgowmuseums.com
Phone: 0141 2291996

Being the second most visited contemporary art gallery outside of London, the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) is a must-visit if you're in the Glasgow area. Offering a unique programme of temporary exhibitions and workshops, the gallery has something for everyone – no matter what your medium of interest.

Displaying work by local and international artists as well as running events like the Annual Art Competition for Young People sets the GoMA apart from the rest.

Opened a decade ago in 1996, the Gallery of Modern Art is housed in an elegant, neo-classical building at the heart of the vibrant city. Refurbished to house the city's contemporary art collection, the building is an appealing combination of old and new architecture, incorporating a number of artists' commissions, and plays host to numerous exhibitions.

Enthralling millions of visitors over its seven years, the Gallery continues to evolve and is attracting new audiences every day. And *Material World*, one of its current exhibitions, can take some credit for this. The sculpture-based event features work from the likes of Damien Hirst, Claire Barclay and Richard Deacon among others, and ends on 25 September. Later in the year you can enjoy November's Contemporary Collection, which features work bought by Glasgow Museums' Contemporary Art Purchasing Panel. This exhibition includes



work by Claire Barclay, Lucy Skaer and Douglas Gordon. For more information on current events, or to subscribe to *Preview*, the magazine of Glasgow museums, log on to the website, where you'll also find links to all of Glasgow's other major galleries including The Burrell Collection, which includes sculpture by Rodin and works of art by Degas and Cézanne. ■

Rating: **4/5**

Red Rag Gallery

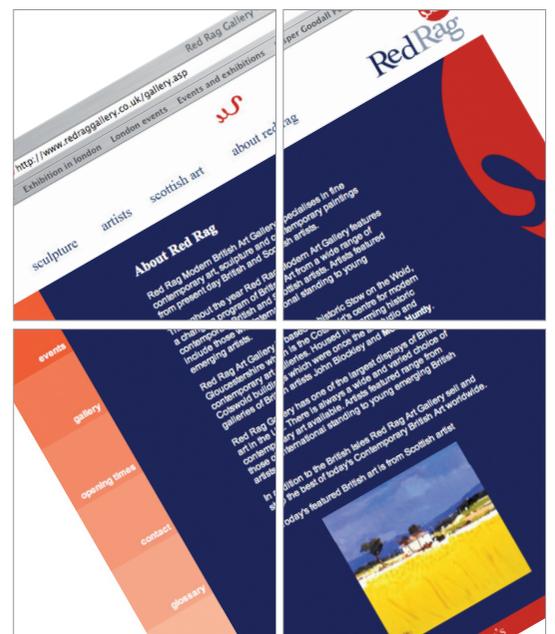
Address: 5-7 Church Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1BB
Web: www.redraggallery.co.uk
Phone: 01451 832563

There are some galleries that everyone has heard of: The Tate, Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery, the list goes on. To find inspiration from lesser-known artists and less popular genres you generally need to scout out smaller galleries.

Red Rag Modern British Art Gallery specialises in fine contemporary art, sculpture and contemporary paintings from present day British and Scottish artists. Although not ideal if you're looking for inspiration purely in the digital art or photography field, the gallery is an ideal place to find up-and-coming artists before their prices shoot through the roof, and let's face it, whether it is sketched, painted or moulded, the use of colour, form, perspective and the like is always a useful study.

Based in some historic Cotswold buildings that were once studios to artists John Blockley and Moira Huntly, the Red Rag gallery has one of the largest displays of British art in the UK. Couple the historic surroundings with the regular exhibitions of solo artists' work and you end up with a fabulously inspiring gallery that's also a great day out.

Although its lack of city centre location could put some visitors off, if you're in the locale there are plenty of other



galleries around. For more information about exhibitions in that area, or any other, check out Red Rag's gallery map, available on the website. It's a really handy tool for finding exactly the artist or type of work you're after. ■

Rating: **4/5**

books

Whether you want some technical tips or some imaging inspiration, there's a book to suit

Photoshop CS2 Visual Encyclopedia

Author: Stephen Romaniello

Publisher: Wiley

Price: £25.99

ISBN: 0764598600

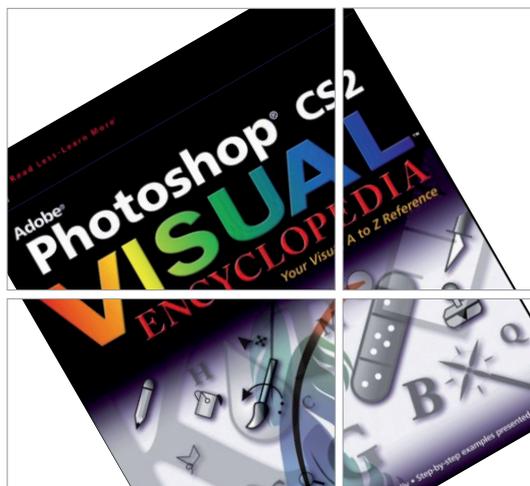
Web: eu.wiley.com

We all know it can take a while to become completely comfortable with new software, and when that software is as all-encompassing as Creative Suite 2, you can really be in trouble.

Photoshop CS2 Visual Encyclopedia does exactly what it says in the title. It gives you a complete A-Z run-through of all the CS2 features, explaining what they do and how to use them, accompanied by images to illustrate each point.

Although this might sound a little basic for the advanced Photoshop user, there are some tricks and tips in here that might just prove invaluable to your imaging. Whether you want a more in-depth knowledge of clipping groups or you simply read the Tips, Warnings or Try This at the end of each chapter, your work can only get better with the help of this guide.

Written by Stephen Romaniello, the author of *Mastering Photoshop 6*, *Photoshop 7 Savvy*, *Photoshop CS Savvy*, and *Photoshop CS2 Savvy*, the book covers tools first then takes a look at the techniques behind the tools. Written in an authoritative and informative yet easy-to-follow manner, CS2



Encyclopedia is packed full of essential explanations and step-by-steps to help the visual artist.

A must-read for all up-and-coming artists and those new to CS2, although it might cover old ground to those of you who have had some more experience. ■

Rating: **3/5**

Character Design For Mobile Devices

Author: NFGMan

Publisher: RotoVision

Price: £30

ISBN: 2940361126

Web: www.rotovision.com

If you've read our *Create Your Own Pixel Art* tutorial, you might already be itching to make something for your phone, PDA or home computer screen. For those of you in need of a bit more persuasion of the brilliance of this art form, look no further than this volume.

Looking at the unique challenges faced by the creatives behind designing icons for mobile devices, this is chock-full of vibrant art and colourful characters.

A constantly changing process due to technological advancements and new creative blood, designing for this medium can be an extremely restrictive process, and not just through space constraints.

Looking at the mobile characters that have gone on to become icons, as well as looking at the profiles of the best in the business and giving you some simple examples to get your own artwork started, this book is a delight to read and simply great to look at. Exploring the development of mobile game characters, this read provides a detailed narrative of the history of the



handheld console and features pages of colour character images together with their own history and the inspirations behind them.

Whether you want to design for your PSP, the DS or your new Motorola phone, there's inspiration galore here for you and although this might be out of your usual book budget, it's well worth a splurge. ■

Rating: **5/5**

Further reading

Photoshop Elements 4: The Art Of Digital Photography

Author: Mikkel Aaland

Publisher: Sybex

Price: £19.99

ISBN: 0782144462

Web: eu.wiley.com

Although as digital artists we're aware of the techniques and tricks needed to create illustrations and artworks using Photoshop, tweaking your photographs can be a useful skill we often overlook.

From importing and managing files to correcting colour, sharpening and adding a copyright watermark, this book covers all you need to get started. If you already know the basics, then the chapters of perfecting your outside shots, interiors, products and faces may prove to be important tools. The section covering handling panoramics with photomerge is particularly useful.

The images give this book a real lift in what could be a dull and tired read. There are some useful pages, but on the whole there are better books out there. ■

Rating: **2/5**

Manga Clip Art

Author: Hayden Scott-Baron

Publisher: Ilex

Price: £14.99

ISBN: 1904705839

Web: www.ilex-press.com

Alongside comic pop art, manga has developed into one of the most popular art forms in the world. Providing you with all the elements you need to create your own, professional looking manga illustrations is Manga Clip Art.

Supplied with a CD packed full of high-res clip art, the book allows even those without any experience of the art form to create a ready-to-print image.

But don't think it's all done for you. With the guidance provided within this hardback you'll soon develop your own unique style, as well as learning the basics of how to create, colour and render original manga creations. A book for lovers of the genre. ■

Rating: **4/5**

The Digital Canvas

Author: Jonathan Raimos, Malcolm Garrett

Publisher: Ilex

Price: £19.95

ISBN: 1904705766

Web: www.ilex-press.com

Although most of us believe that Photoshop is Adobe's finest app, it's not its only one. The Digital Canvas looks at how easy it is to create fantastic artwork using the range of Photoshop, Illustrator and Painter features.

Aimed at both beginners and advanced users, this book features a massive 350 images inside its 192 pages – a pretty good ratio! Looking at everything from the manipulation of basic lines, shapes and colours to the experimental art of John Maeda, this book is the ideal companion next to your tablet. ■

Rating: **4/5**

plug-ins

Enhance Photoshop's potential with these fantastic plug-ins available for download

Exposure

Developer: Alien Skin Software

Price: US\$99/£54 (upgrade)

Web: www.alienskin.com

It hasn't been so long since the country's photographers switched en masse to digital. Now, through Photoshop and apps like it, we strive to get that feel of real film back.

Exposure from Alien Skin Software helps bring the look and feel of film to digital photographs. Effects that can be achieved include realistic film grain, simulating the characteristics of dozens of film stocks.

If you miss the distinctive look of film photography then check out the Exposure examples page, where you can see the effects you're buying before you shell out your cash. Useful, but you can achieve similar effects without the £54 outlay. ■

Rating: **3/5**



LunarCell

Developer: Flaming Pear

Price: US\$40/£21 (as part of a bundle)

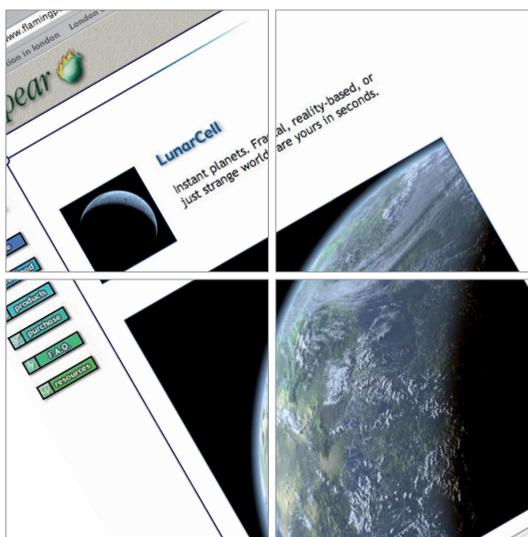
Web: www.flamingpear.com

If you regularly create space scenes within Photoshop you'll know that plenty of texture and great sky shots are an essential. LunarCell is a plug-in that's dedicated to accurately recreating planets, and even allows you to download live cloud pictures from weather satellites.

Download the free demo version to get to grips with the plug-in, or for just £21 you can buy the full plug-in alongside two others – SolarCell (for fantasy-style suns) and Glitterato (realistic star bursts and nebulas).

This is an inexpensive bundle, but unless you have a specific use for lots of space images it might be best left on the shelf. ■

Rating: **3/5**



PhotoFreebies

Developer: The Plugin Site

Price: Free

Web: www.thepluginsite.com

If you're looking for a plug-in, you can't go far wrong looking on a resource called The Plugin Site. From plug-ins to organise your other plug-ins to frame and photo effects, there's something for every need and every pocket.

PhotoFreebies is a collection of free plug-ins designed to perform an array of photo manips and effects. Whether you want black and white, sepia or to remove transparency, this plug-in has it all.

This won't work with Photoshop versions lower than 7 on a Mac 3 on Windows, but all compatibility can be checked via the site before you download. ■

Rating: **3/5**



Special effects

AlgoShop

Developer: Algoith

Price: US\$89.95/£49

Web: www.algoith.com

Designed specifically for Photoshop CS and CS2, this is a simple plug-in providing improved image quality. Tidying up some of the regular problems found within digital photography, AlgoShop focuses on the blotchy irregular patches known as Mosquito noise as well as the noise created at the time of image capture (ISO noise).

With a simple and user-friendly interface which allows you easy access to a before-and-after preview, AlgoShop is certainly self-explanatory to use. It's a useful tool for anyone who spends a lot of time cleaning up new digital or archived images, and the results can be quite impressive. ■

Rating: **4/5**

EtchTone v1.21

Developer: Andromeda

Price: US\$98/£53 (full)

Web: www.andromeda.com

EtchTone is a rather niche creative plug-in that allows you to simulate the look of a steel etching starting with just a black-and-white photograph.

Depending upon the end effect desired, the plug-in will either Overlay the etch or Blend the etch to give a classic old printing look.

You can also buy this as part of a larger bundle (Artistic Screening Tools, US\$225/£121), which includes Cutline and Screens.

Making results you can already achieve with Photoshop a lot easier, unless you're having a lot of trouble mastering the Adobe techniques, these really aren't worth the money. ■

Rating: **2/5**

Three-D Luxe v3

Developer: Andromeda

Price: US\$109/£59 (full)

Web: www.andromeda.com

If you want to get your head around 3D without the expense of some of the high-end 3D packages, then this plug-in might just be what you're after.

With an even easier-to-use new interface, this is superior to its predecessor in more than one way. Now able to wrap textures and combine images from within Photoshop, Three-D can help you create high-quality rendered 3D objects from your own images and stock photography.

Also providing you a selection of textures and surfaces within the plug-in, new features include Stressed, Rivoted, Aged and Alien sculpted surfaces, offering the full gamut of interesting creative options. Upgrade from previous versions for just US\$19.95/£11. ■

Rating: **4/5**