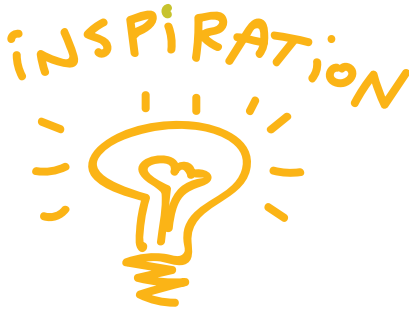




How to Find Reference

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Inspiration comes from viewing the world and looking at the work of other artists.

Professional artists create their reference or find it by searching. Monet created his inspiration and reference by designing and maintaining lavish gardens. Still life artists collect the objects they want to paint.

Many artists collect images too. Here are the 4 ways you can find your reference.



Set a time Limit!

Since there is an unlimited supply of images you can look at, you must set a timer for yourself. 5 or 10 minutes is best. Otherwise, you will use all of your art time looking at photographs. A deadline keeps you focused!



Real Life

Look around you. The world is full of interesting things to draw and paint if you take the time to arrange it in a nice frame and good composition. If you have a camera handy, take photos whenever you see a great subject, and save it for later.



Books + Magazines

Picture books and magazines have photographers create beautifully composed images. You can use them for personal work, but keep in mind that you won't be able to sell your work, because the copyright belongs to the photographer.



Saved Photos

Having a file system in a folder, a note-book, or on your device, is a great way to have reference you know you'll like whenever the mood to create hits. These can be saved from all 3 of the other sources.



online sites

Always make sure safe-search is on. Online search engines will show some good photos but the copyrights are an issue. Try **Morguefile.com** which allows artists to use their photos, or look for other sites with this feature.