Art via the iPad

This highlights a variety of online art activities, but detailed exploration of websites and apps is left for 'homework'.

Discoveries and Queries:

A. Visiting Galleries

Making art collections available online is a win-win idea. Galleries get increased footfall and it could become a revenue stream; the public can see more than could be displayed physically and without the time and cost of traveling.

- Google **National Museum Cardiff** and scroll down to **About** to see a slide show. Scroll back up and tap **Highlights**, then scroll and follow your interests (e.g. **Art Galleries**).
- **Art UK** is useful for finding galleries and museums around the UK if you are holidaying. Google **artuk.org** and tap **Venues** then go where you like, e.g. scroll down to **Wales** > **South East Wales** > **Cardiff** > **View all 24** (under LH heading Venues) then scroll down and tap something - e.g. **National Museum Cardiff** or **County Hall**.
- **Italy** - Google **Ufizzi Gallery** and tap **Website**. Tap **English** at top of screen. Tap **Collections** and choose - e.g. **Artworks** or **Hypervisions**.
- **France** - Google **Louvre Museum** then scroll down and tap **OnlineTours**. Try **Power Plays** for a feel of the tours. You can drag with fingers to change the scene through 360º as in Google's Street View. You can only go forward in the direction of the **white ^** on a red circle.

B. Relaxing with graphics

Handy way of staying calm when phoning a busy organisation (!) or entertaining grandchildren.

Colouring Book opens in portrait orientation. Turn **off** 'Legitimate Interests'. Scroll down to find a category that interests you, or tap **My gallery** for more options, and choose a picture.

a) **Add colour.** Choose a **colour** then a **shade**, tap on a **space** in the picture and the colour fills it. You can spread two fingers to zoom in. Just fill with another colour if you change your mind.

b) **The arrow icons.** The **up-arrow icon** lets you **Copy** or **Save** your picture; the **single circular arrow** is **Undo**; the **double circular arrows** clear all colours so you can start again; the **thick arrow** returns you to My Gallery where you can choose another picture and see your previous masterpieces.

Joy Doodle is for doodling rather than drawing. It works only in portrait orientation with black background and no choice of colours - the colour changes when you resume after lifting your finger. But it creates pleasing doodles.

a) **Brushes.** Open the app and tap **New**. Tap the **paintbrush** at foot of screen then flick left on the row of flower 'styles' to see more. Tap a style and "paint" with your finger. Try several styles, esp. from scrolling to far right.

b) **Mistakes.** The 2nd icon is an **Eraser** and next to it is an **Undo** icon. If you tap and hold the Eraser you can alter its width. The bin at top right of screen will delete the entire painting.

c) **Save.** The **Camera** icon saves your art to Doodle's Gallery.

d) **Photo.** The **Paper Dart** shows 3 more icons on the right of the screen. The middle icon lets you **import a photo** which you can then draw on. The bottom '<' icon on the right gives a pop-up menu that includes **Print**.

e) **Misc**. The **triangle in blue circle** redraws the painting from scratch, **red circle** changes the re-drawing speed.
  - The **fried egg** saves the art to Photos if you have given permission in Settings, but you could use Screenshot.
  - The **white square in blue circle** brings back the original icon set.

C. Creating artwork

Sketchbook *is free but its Premium bundle costs £1.99.* The free version has 4 main sets of tools, see a-d below.

a) A **Toolbar** at the top of the screen shows icons for 15 tools. A summary giving labels to each tool is available by tapping the leftmost icon > **Support** > **Getting Started** > **Toolbar for tablet users**.

b) **Brushes.** There is a scrollable **brush palett**e on left of screen. Tap to select a **brush**, then tap the **icon at top** of Brushes for pop-up showing how it paints (and other brush options). To change **brush size**, tap the icon of **2 dots on lines** at top of this pop-up.

c) **Colour.** In the middle of the screen towards the right is what Sketchbook calls a '**Double Puck**' of two circles. Tap the **lower coloured circle** to get a pop-up colour selector. Tap the **top circle**, which shows the pen you chose, and adjust the **pen width** which is shown numerically at the top of the circle.

d) **Layers.** On the right of the screen is a ladder of potential **Layers**. The bottom layer is the background to your painting, i.e. below your drawing. The currently active layer is highlighted in the ladder by a blue border. A layer must be active (tap it in the ladder) for you to paint on it. Tap the + at top of ladder for a new layer. Double tap in top left of screen to clear a highlighted layer.

e) In addition, there are customisable hidden tools in each of the four corners, plus finger gestures. No time today!

PRACTICE: a) Select a **pen** from the Brush Palette, then choose a **colour** from the Double Puck and paint.
b) From the Toolbar, try the **2 arrows** (Undo and Redo) and the **Symmetry** tool (icon 7).
c) **Tap T** to add text which will appear on a new layer.
d) **Import a photo** (icon 10) and draw on it.

NB. A **stylus pe***n, many under £20, gives finer control of detail, but do check for compatibility with your specific iPad.*

Procreate *is an app used by professional artists. Costs £9.99 from App store. It is the 'PhotoShop' of the art world, giving you control over every aspect of your painting, but it takes a while to learn how to use all it can do.*

The next iPads meeting is at **2pm** on **Friday 22nd March 2024**