# Digital vs. Traditional Drawing:

# Exploring the differences for artists and teachers

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# Research Question:

- As an art teacher, what's the difference between teaching digital art and traditional art?

- How do strategies change with these two media?

- How is the experience of digital art different from traditional art making as an artist?

- How does these two different media affect artists and their work?

# What:

- The comparison between traditional and digital art:  art based self study.
- Listen to modern artists' voice.

# Why:

- Personal experience with digital art and traditional art: I was attracted by both media, but how about others?
- Technology grows really fast. How does modern artists change their opinion on digital art?

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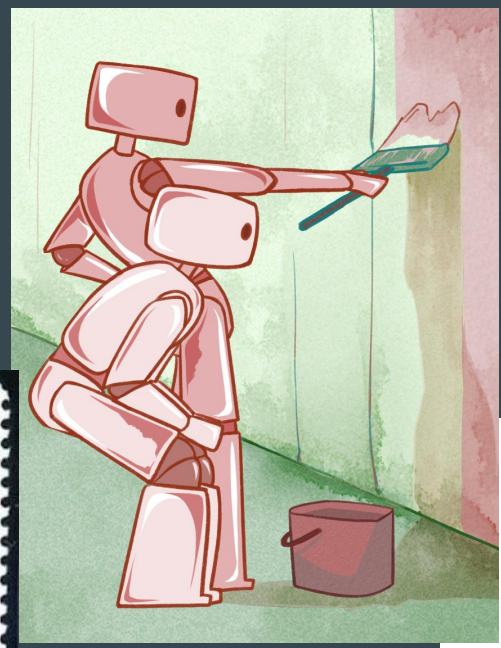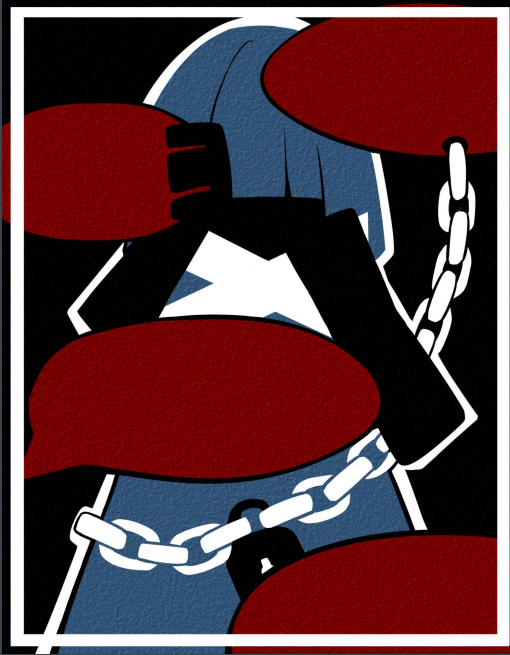
# Methodology:

- Research: The growing tendency of digital art in the future.


- Art based self study
    - Traditional art (Watercolor painting)
    - Digital art (Photoshop)


- Data collection from art educators and artists. (Google Form)
    - How is your experience of teaching or learning digital art different from teaching or learning traditional art?

    - What difficulties did you meet while teaching or learning about digital art?

    - How does their experience with digital art differ from traditional art as an artist?

    - Which one do you prefer and why?

    - What do you think might affect your audiences' (that are not artists) experience while they are looking at a digital art and a traditional art?

# Literature Review

Faramarzi, Sabrina. "Art Schools of the Future Need to Teach Students to Understand Technology. How Will That Change the Future of Art?" *Artnet News*, 23 Dec. 2019, news.artnet.com/art-world/art-school-tech-adapt-1742802

- According to the 2019 State of Art Education Survey, 52.2 percent of art teachers want to learn more about teaching digital art effectively, but only 21.9 percent of art teachers feel comfortable actually teaching a digital arts curriculum. Schools like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and New York University, meanwhile, have already incorporated arts education into their historically science- and technology-led curricula.
- Vicki Fong thinks that the future of digital art will be exhibited in online, virtual spaces. "There is already emerging this market where individuals that are interested in buying digital assets," she says. "If we think about Millennials and Gen Z who may not own physical spaces but who have more of a digital online existence—they will want these assets to dress their virtual spaces."
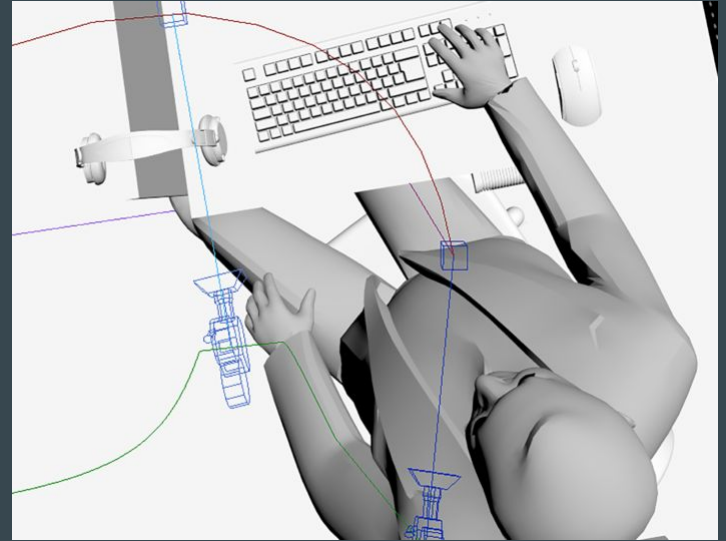
# Literature Review

Susan Elizabeth Ryan "Market for new media art.", 31 July 2018,

- The current trend is to view new media works, even the most open and immaterial examples, within an expanded art market rather than as a minor genre at the market's edge, an evolution that seems to be occurring relentlessly, if slowly. However, new platforms challenge traditional ideas about the nature of art and authenticity, a fact that will encourage new media artists to develop object-oriented versions of their works for some time to come.

# Teaching Traditional Art vs. Teaching Digital Art

Traditional Art:

- Advantage:
    - Hands-on Experiences
    - Unique Pieces
    - Increased Versatility
    - Forced Problem-Solving
    - Tactile and Tangible
- Disadvantage:
    - Expensive Art Supplies and Materials
    - Possible Messy Work Space
    - Unmodifiable or Hard to Fix

Digital Art:

- Advantage:
    - Increased Access
    - Convenience
    - Instant Shareability
    - Increased Productivity
    - Low Editing Difficulty
- Disadvantage:
    - Lack of Physical Control
    - Lose of Physical Texture
    - High Learning Difficulty

# Traditional vs. Digital
## Art Based Self Study

Watercolor

Photoshop

# Watercolor Painting

- "I found that when I was doing traditional drawing with watercolor paints, the action of cleaning my brush in a cup can drag me out of the process for a few seconds. It's not interrupting me, actually it helps me with my work by letting me look at my drawing as a whole not only focusing on one detail. I also found that touching the material makes me feel like it is easier to push or apply more pressure on the brush and have better control with the brush."

# Digital Drawing with Photoshop

- "While I was doing the digital drawing, I found that compared to the traditional drawing, it is harder to control the pen. It would have some kind of delay with the brushstrokes. However, with digital drawing, I can easily draw a straight line or fill in a box of colors. Instead of using the gel pen to do highlights, the bright color can be done much more easily with the digital device. The mistakes or any part that I'm not satisfied with, can be redone easily."

# Data Analysis:

- Inclusiveness of Digital Art:

  - for both students and professors in the 21st century, the acceptability of digital art has increased a lot. Many artists are self teaching or learning digital arts from some courses in their college which shows that no matter which way they choose to learn digital art, they are getting in touch with digital art.

  - "A lot of students enjoyed making artwork digitally and they expressed how they were able to achieve certain styles that they wanted to do for our class project." One of the participants talks about how her students are enjoying trying this new media. "I have also taught myself some digital arts techniques at home with the help of YouTube." Other than the official learning in college, artists also have other ways to learn about digital art and they are willing to do that to meet their students' interests.
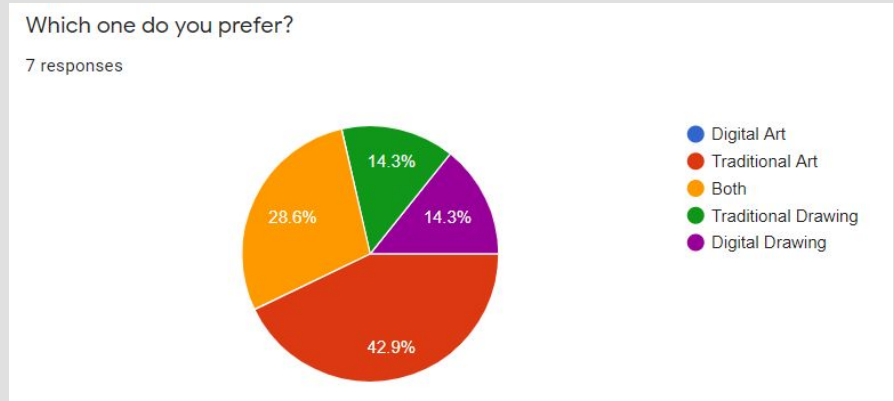
# Data Analysis:

- Difficulties of Teaching/Learning Traditional Art and Digital Art:

    - "I feel like with digital art the difficulties come forward in learning the program and how to achieve your desired effects within a digital space.". The unlimited effects and brushes you can choose while doing the digital art might disturb artists. It is convenient that artists can just select the brush they want in software instead of buying different actual brushes, but it takes more time for artists to try all the different types of brushes and select one from thousands of them to approach their desired effects.

    - Just like trying different materials of traditional art, it takes lots of practice to become familiar with this new media. They do have some connection with each other. For example, artists are moving their wrist or arm to draw. They are using electronic pens for digital art and regular brush/pen/other materials for traditional art which has mostly the same form. However it would lose some consistency while doing digital art.

# Data Analysis:

- Preference:



- When the participants answer the question: "which one do you think attracts you/your students more", most participants think both traditional art and digital art attracts them. However for the question of "which one do you (as an artist) prefer", 33% of people think both mediums attract them. 16% of people think they like digital art more and others think traditional art attracts them more. Based on my art based self study, I do not have any preference. For me, they are two different ways of making art. The effects created by these two different media are different but both interesting and attractive.

# Data Analysis:

- Tactile and Tangible:

    - More than one participant mentioned that they like to feel the materials. The process of touching materials  helps them develop art skills. From the conversation with my friends, they point out that they like the smell of traditional materials. Just like some people love reading physical books instead of reading Kindle books. The smell of paper is one of the reasons. Different materials also have different smells and textures that feel different to the touch. This makes the process of creating art more interesting and physically engaging by appealing to multiple senses.

# Findings:

- Digital art will be given more attention in the future. Schools, educators and students are moving their sight to this new media.
- Digital art is welcomed because of its convenience and abundant tools which traditional art does not have.
- Educators and artists are still preferring traditional art even as digital art is growing.
- Traditional art still seem as important as before because of its "tactile and tangible" qualities. Artists will not be giving up doing traditional art.

# Conclusion:

Digital or Traditional?

## Both!

The data collected in this study shows that artists are generally welcoming to digital art. The market for digital art is also growing. Digital art can be as important as traditional art. But traditional art would never disappear from people's sight. The actual texture and physical experiences with traditional art can not be replaced by digital art. For now, artists see traditional art as a basic, foundational practice before getting into digital art. Even though there might be a time when some artists only do digital art, traditional art will always exist, the two are not mutually exclusive and they each provide different effects.

# Sources:

- Faramarzi, Sabrina. "Art Schools of the Future Need to Teach Students to Understand Technology. How Will That Change the Future of Art?" *Artnet News*, 23 Dec. 2019, news.artnet.com/art-world/art-school-tech-adapt-1742802

- Susan Elizabeth Ryan "Market for new media art.", 31 July 2018, https://www-oxfordartonline-com.ezproxy.pratt.edu/groveart/view/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.001.0001/oao-9781884446054-e-2000000138

- "Digital Vs. Traditional Art: Is One Better than the Other?" *The Art of Education University*, 10 May 2019, theartofeducation.edu/2019/05/29/digital-vs-traditional-art-is-one-better-than-the-other/