

Adobe Photoshop

Using the Art History Brush in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 5.5 or later

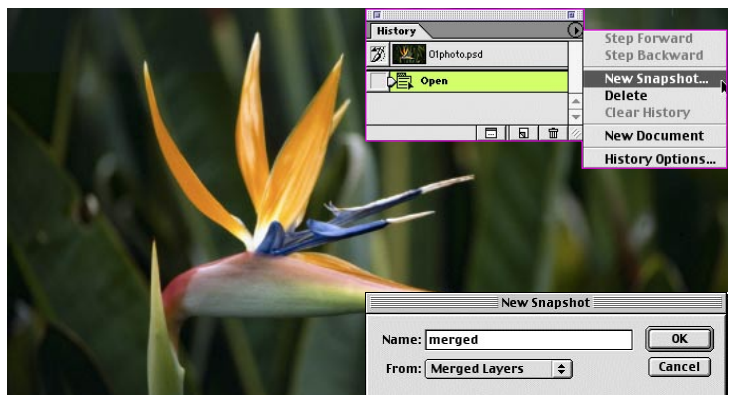


The Art History brush paints with stylized strokes using the source data from a specified History State or Snapshot. By experimenting with different Art History brush options, you can simulate the textures of painting with different artistic styles. There are many different ways to use the Art History brush. The easiest way is to paint directly on a layer. However, this tip will demonstrate how painting on a new layer can create wonderful painterly effects as if painting on a blank canvas. This tip also contributes the added flexibility of blending the stylized image with the original.

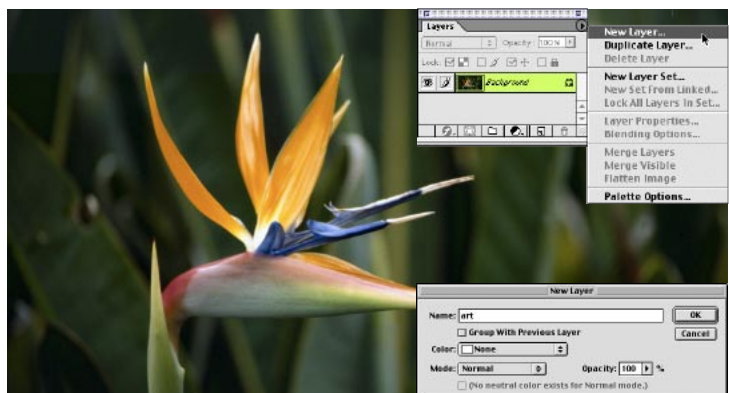
Open the file. Images with bold, easy to recognize subjects typically work the best since the Art History brush creates a painterly quality that typically obscures some of the finer details in the image.



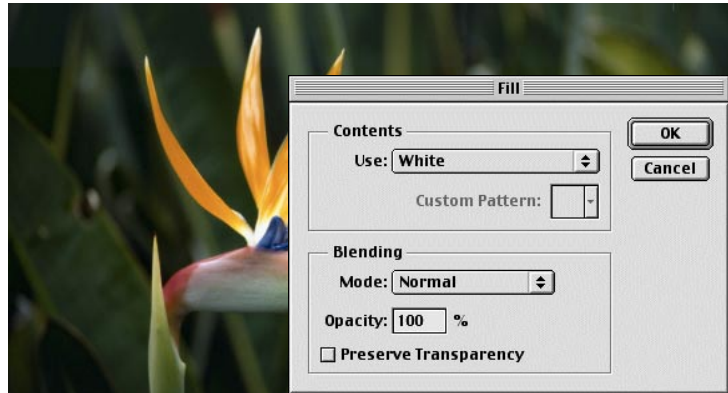
Create a new snapshot. In the History palette, click the triangle in the upper right corner and select New Snapshot. In the New Snapshot dialog box, name the snapshot *merged* and choose Merged Layers from the pop-up menu. Click OK. *Note: this step is necessary only if the image is multi-layered or manipulations such as changing the image size or color mode have occurred since opening the file.*



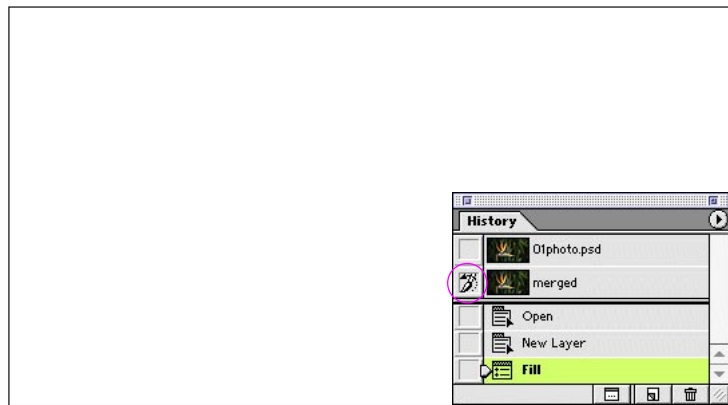
Create a new layer. From the Layers palette, select New Layer. In the New Layer dialog box, name the layer *art*. Click OK.



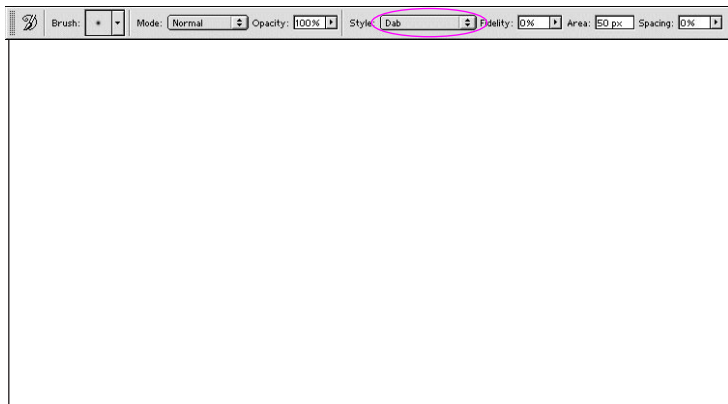
Fill the layer. Select Edit > Fill. For Contents, Use: White, for Blending set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity use 100%. Click OK. This will fill the new layer with white, hiding the original layer(s) underneath.



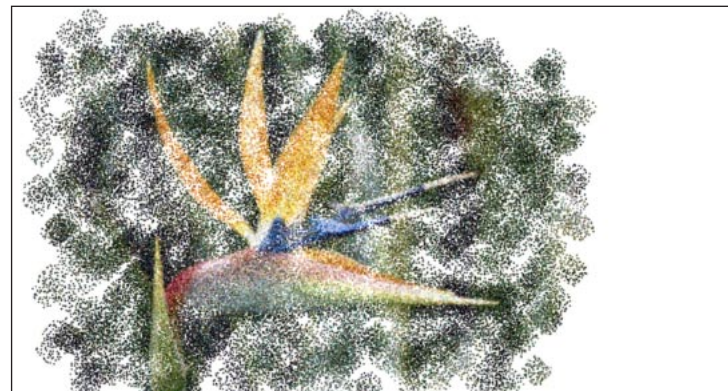
Set the options for painting. From the tool palette, click and hold on the History Brush to select the Art History Brush. In the History palette, set the Art History Brush to sample from the merged snapshot by clicking in the well to the left of the snapshot thumbnail. On the Layers palette, but sure that the *art* layer is the targeted layer.



Select a style. From the Options bar, select a paint style. The paint styles, including “Tight” and “Loose” refer to how closely the paint strokes will follow the contours of the original image. In this example, the Dab paint style was used.



Begin painting. From the Options bar, choose a small brush and begin painting in the image area. The Art History brush samples from the image in the snapshot and applies the painterly style to it. *Note: The resolution of an image determines the size of the brush and the area setting you will use. To get a feel for how the tool works, start by using a small number for the Area setting as well as a small brush size.*



Art History Brush Options. Once you're familiar with how the basic settings work, try adjusting the following options for the Art History Brush (found on the Options bar):

- To paint with colors that deviate from the snapshot, drag the fidelity slider towards zero. This allows Photoshop to introduce colors that were not in the original image, adding a variety of color.



Fidelity 100%



Fidelity 0%

- To limit the regions where Photoshop applies paint, adjust the tolerance slider. A low tolerance lets you paint unlimited strokes anywhere in the image. A high tolerance limits paint strokes to areas that differ considerably from the color in the source state or snapshot.



Tolerance set to 100%



Tolerance set to 0%

- Lower the opacity to decrease the effect of the Art History Brush. To fade a single stroke made with the Art History Brush, select Edit > Fade Art History Brush.



Full opacity



Decreased opacity

- To change the way the Art History Brush interacts with the layer below as your painting, change the Blend Mode in the Options bar. To change the way the *art* layer blends with the layers below, try changing the Blend Mode on the Layers palette for the *art* layer.



Blend mode set to Multiply



Blend mode set to Darken

Variation One: Not all areas have to be painted with the Art History Brush. Leaving some areas of the canvas blank can create an antique or weathered look.



Variation Two: The entire image doesn't have to have the a paint style applied nor does it have to be the same paint style. Experiment with painting only the background or foreground subject of an image to enhance it or set it apart from the other elements. Use multiple paint styles to create difference effects.



Variation Three: Make the image appear to be painted on canvas. After creating a painterly effect with the Art History Brush, try adding a texture for textures in Photoshop available by selecting Filter > Texture > Texturizer including the option to load a custom texture. This example demonstrates the sandstone texture.



Variation Four: Changing the spacing of the brush and using custom brushes can lead to even more painterly effects. On the Options bar, select the brush options and drag the spacing slider to the right to change the Brush spacing.

