

book is for websites which will provide additional information. One of my few criticisms of the book is that websites come and go, and the material on Addison's website, although excellent, does duplicate some of that in the book. His website is the resource for images used in the tutorials in the text, which can be downloaded for you to practise on, as well as holding video tutorials on those topics.

While Painter 12 is designed for artists to create digitally rather than on paper or canvas, it has the facility to allow the photographer to explore another modification method for images. The tutorials concentrate on that process.

In the introductory section, Addison presents fully the new features that version 12 brings, without dwelling on them. The real meat starts in chapter 2, where you find a breadth of tutorials for the absolute beginner, to ease them into the software, familiarising them gradually with the controls. The first of these takes minutes to complete, and at the end of it, you know you've achieved success, and the confidence begins.

In each of the subsequent chapters, we are introduced to more tools and toys; and each section has fully detailed tutorials, with procedures which are step-by-step easy to follow.

As the latter part of the book is reached, the tutorials progressively become more difficult and complex, but Addison has given you the confidence to try them, and the skills and knowledge to understand the principles, so that you can experiment on your own images.

The language is easy to follow but, because of the nature of the 'recipes', can be a little repetitive, and it is possible to lose the flow in some of the longer, more difficult routines. A short break or section marker would facilitate this.

The full colour illustrations are superb. In the descriptive sections, we are presented with comparative examples of the same image given a different treatment, for example, painted with the multitude of different brushes.

In the tutorials, we get pictures for the steps along the way, as well as good sized, often full page, images of the final result.

Addison does not dwell on the technical; only the most necessary information is provided. We see the creative process however, and sufficient technical detail to allow readers to adapt their images and try a new process. I'm glad I had this book at hand when I tried Painter for the first time.

### THE PAINTER WOW! BOOK 10th EDITION

Cher Threinen-Pendarvis, ISBN 978-0-321-79264-8, Peachpit Press, £39.99

An impressive treatise, *The Painter Wow! Book* is accompanied by a CD-Rom of resources. As the creator of Corel Painter's natural-media brushes you might expect the author to share these with you, but you are given brushes, patterns, textures, photos and scripts for the exclusive use of *Wow!* purchasers, along with goodies from other Painter masters: John Derry's nozzles; Michele Lill's emaps; Carol Benioff's brushes, textures and patterns; and Don Seegmiller's brushes and textures. To top these off, we have 'how to' movies on making movies with Painter.

Right: Maureen, from *The Painter Wow! Book*. © Michael Campbell. Reproduced by permission of Michael Campbell, michaelcampbell.com



Although we see cloned work (modified photographic images) throughout the book as procedures and media are discussed, there is one chapter specifically dedicated to the technique of enhancing photographs by these Painter 12 methods, and as the techniques overlap, parts of other chapters demonstrate distinctive applications.

The examples in chapter 7 cover a range of subjects and techniques. One of my favourites is *Maureen* by Michael Campbell. British born, he has worked with, among others, Ansel Adams and Paul Caponigro. He teaches workshops on a wide range of topics. He shot his first portrait in 1973, of former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden, which Eden used for his bestselling book, *A New World*.

I haven't checked them all, but as far as I can tell, each slider for each Painter control has had

its function meticulously recorded. If you want to know how the 'evaporation rate' influences the image quality, it's on page 89!

The book is full of images and examples of techniques, work by a multitude of Painter maestros, hand drawn cartoons through painted works to visual art type modified photographs, art theory, colour theory, and, yes, how to use the controls in Painter to best advantage.

While it is not a recipe book, the examples, even from featured artists, have a brief description of the technique employed, the brushes, paper and textures chosen, the methodology used, and in some cases, a little of the story or philosophy behind the image.

As an ideas book to stimulate the old grey matter into seeing pictures in a different light: 'I could do that!' - it could justify its slot on the bookshelf.