

The Digital Apprentice

AI is a Tool for the Modern Studio

PRESENTER

HAN CHRIST | Artist & Marketer | January 2026

AGENDA

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AI is a Tool, Not a Threat

You are the artist, AI is the assistant

AI is a Tool, Not a Threat

Every major art or technology shift disrupted the way things were done and caused fear at first.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Did not end painting, it allowed for a different form of expression.



INTERNET

Evolved the way we consume information and connect globally.



DIGITAL TOOLS

Did not replace hand skills, human emotion and lived experiences.

What is AI?

- Pattern recognition software
- Predicts likely outcomes from prompts
- It has no emotion or intent
- Reflects human input

AI can assist, but not author.

It cannot replace your voice because it does not have one.

The Artist Toolkit

Top-rated overall AI tools *right now* across creativity, productivity, and general use.



CHATGPT (OPENAI)

- **Best for:** Writing, structured thinking, teaching, planning
- **Weaknesses:** Not strong for image creation or editing
- **Best when you need:** Clear language, logical structure, studio workflow guidance



GEMINI (GOOGLE)

- **Best for:** Image editing, visual reasoning, multi-image tasks
- **Weaknesses:** Writing can be less nuanced than others
- **Best when you need:** Mockups, cleanup, staging art, lighting trials



CLAUDE (ANTHROPIC)

- **Best for:** Thoughtful writing, reflective, long narratives
- **Weaknesses:** Not as strong for images; slower iteration
- **Best when you need:** Sensitive, authentic text with voice and feeling

How AI Helps Artists

These are areas where AI saves time without touching the heart of the artwork.



IDEATION AND BRAINSTORMING

- **Mood Boarding:** generate 50 ideas or variations of a color palette.
- **Concept Prototyping:** test a composition (e.g., "What would this landscape look like with a low-hanging moon?").



REFERENCE AND VISUALIZATION

- **Creating custom mockups:** lighting, fabric folds, or anatomical poses that are hard to find in stock photos.



TEDIOUS STUDIO TASKS

- **Upscaling:** enlarge a small sketch for a large-scale mural.
- **Clean-up:** color correction, remove background distractions or testing "What if I painted over this section?".



BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION

- **Writing:** artist statements, commission contracts, pricing quotes, gallery applications, emails, website copy, newsletters, or social media captions.

Overcoming the Blank Canvas

Instead of staring at a blank page, you can explore ideas quickly.

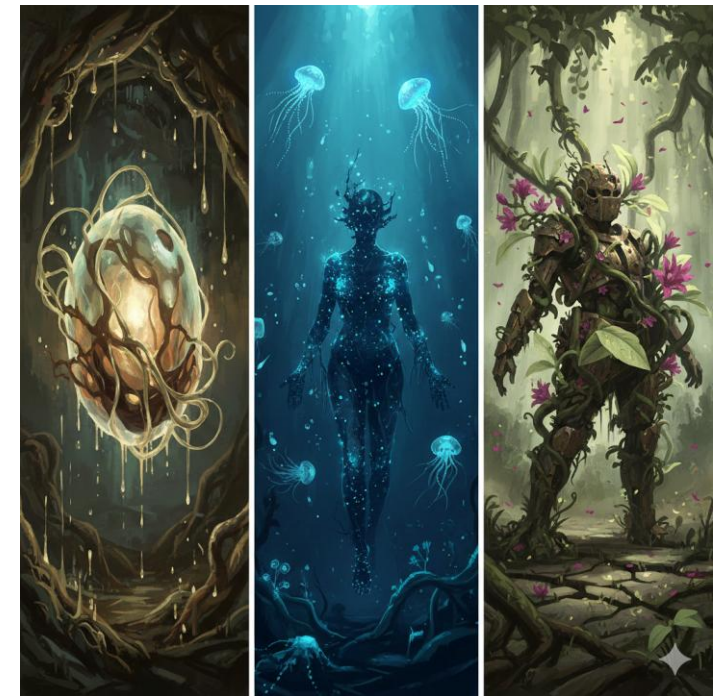
PROMPT

Give me 3 mood variations for a body of work exploring transformation. Include color palettes and lighting ideas. Keep it painterly and atmospheric.



RESULT

1. **The Chrysalis** - focuses on the moment just before a breakthrough. It feels claustrophobic but ripe with potential.
2. **The Bioluminescent Deep** - transformation in the darkness, where the subject generates its own light.
3. **Botanical Overgrowth** - human or mechanical forms being reclaimed by aggressive, blooming nature.



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Custom Reference Images on Demand

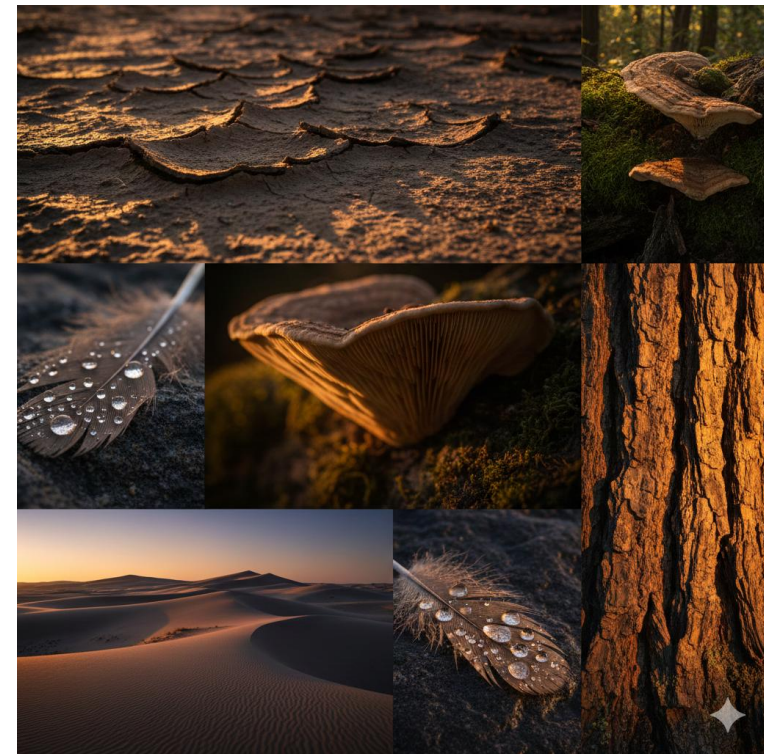
Like googling photo references or Pinterest, except you can ask for exactly what you need instantly.

PROMPT

Create reference ideas for dramatic side lighting on textured organic surfaces.
Emphasize shadow depth and warm highlights of images in nature.



RESULT



Let AI Handle the Tedious Work

AI excels at technical chores. Use it to clean up images or test before committing time and materials.

PROMPT

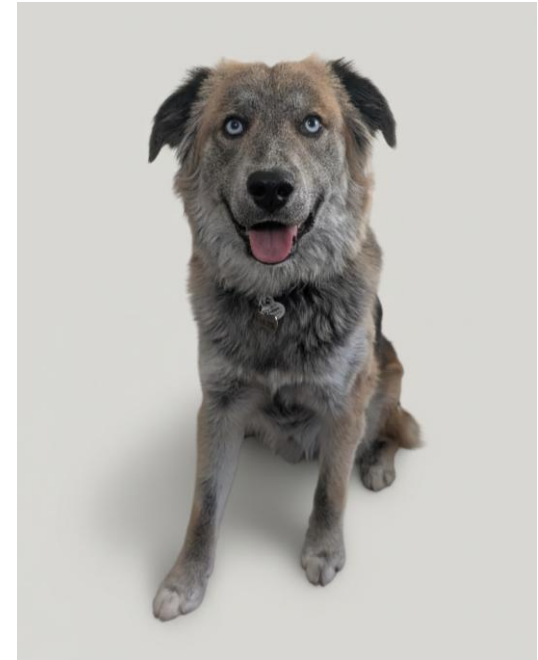
Remove the background from this photo and replace it with a clean, seamless neutral background. Keep the photo 100% unchanged. Preserve all edges, fine details, and texture. Do not crop the photo. Match natural shadows lightly but keep the result studio-clean.



My dog Asher



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Content Creation – A Major Help for Artists

Many artists burn out on writing. AI can help you say what you already know in clearer language.

PROMPT

Help me write a 300-character professional but authentic artist statement for this collection of acrylic paintings. Avoid marketing language.



RESULT

This collection explores the quiet strength and cultural heritage found in traditional feminine identity. Through high-contrast acrylics, I capture the graphic elegance of the bunad, hanbok, and kimono. These figures honor legacy through a timeless sense of grace.

Using Gemini

Artist: Han Christ



Prompts for Image Mockups

Professional Photograph without the Cost

Mockup Workflow

Mockups are presentation, not deception. AI simply makes them accessible and affordable.

• *No expensive photo shoots* • *No staging equipment* • *Mockups are industry standard practice*

SIMPLE PROCESS

- 1 Photograph your artwork cleanly
- 2 Use a prompt to generate a mockup with your photograph
- 3 Iterate as necessary – adjusting environment, lighting and scale, etc.

Gourd Art Prompt

The Goal: Highlighting texture and natural organic materials

PROMPT

Create a mockup of this exact gourd art. Bright lighting with a single spotlight. Surrounding elements include dried leaves, cinnamon sticks, and raw twine. Earthy tones and high texture detail. Make the gourd the focal point. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality.

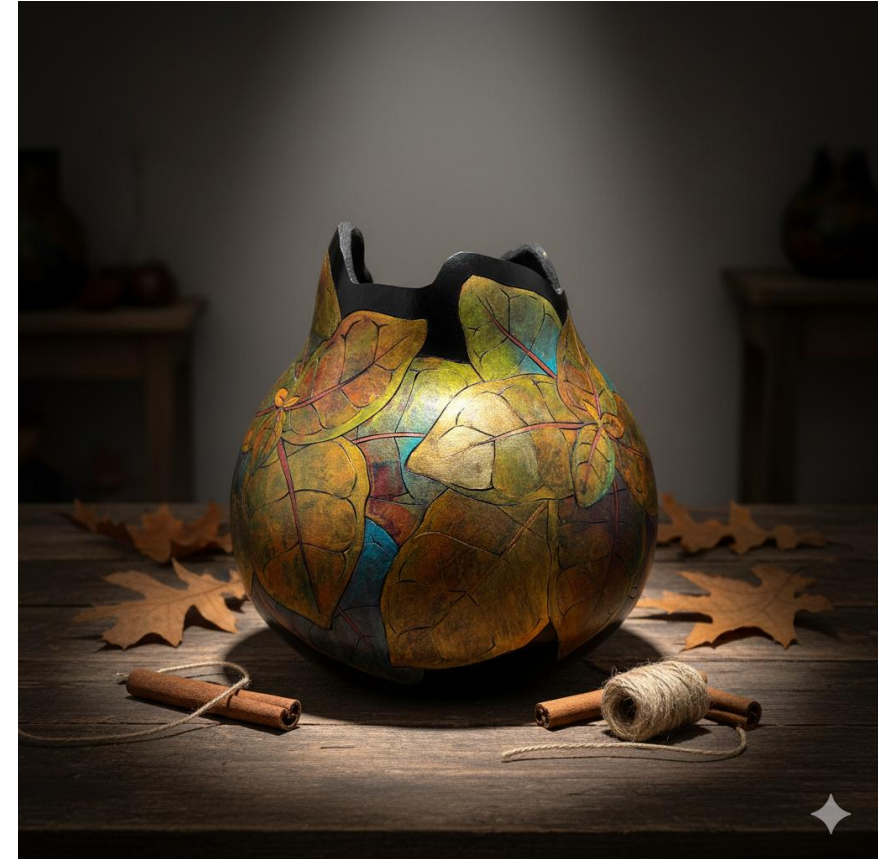
Original photo



Artist: Grace Swanson



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Gourd Art Prompt

The Goal: Present in a lifestyle setting for website or publication

PROMPT

Use the uploaded photo of the gourd art and place it in a modern desert-style home. Set it on a floating shelf made of reclaimed wood. Use warm, late-afternoon 'Golden Hour' lighting to highlight the textures.

Original photo



Artist: Grace Swanson



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Wall Art Prompt

The Goal: Show artwork in a high-end interior.

PROMPT

Create a mockup of this exact painting framed as a canvas hanging in a modern luxurious minimalistic Scandinavian bedroom. A straight on shot at the painting, make the painting the focal point. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality.

Original photo



Artist: Han Christ



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Wall Art Prompt

The Goal: Show artwork on a smaller scale

PROMPT

Create a mockup of this exact painting in a white frame, propped up on a modern minimalistic office desk. Add a small plant and pen sitting on the desk. Zoom in on the painting, make the painting the focal point. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality

Original photo



Artist: Han Christ



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Jewelry Prompt

The Goal: Luxury editorial photograph

PROMPT

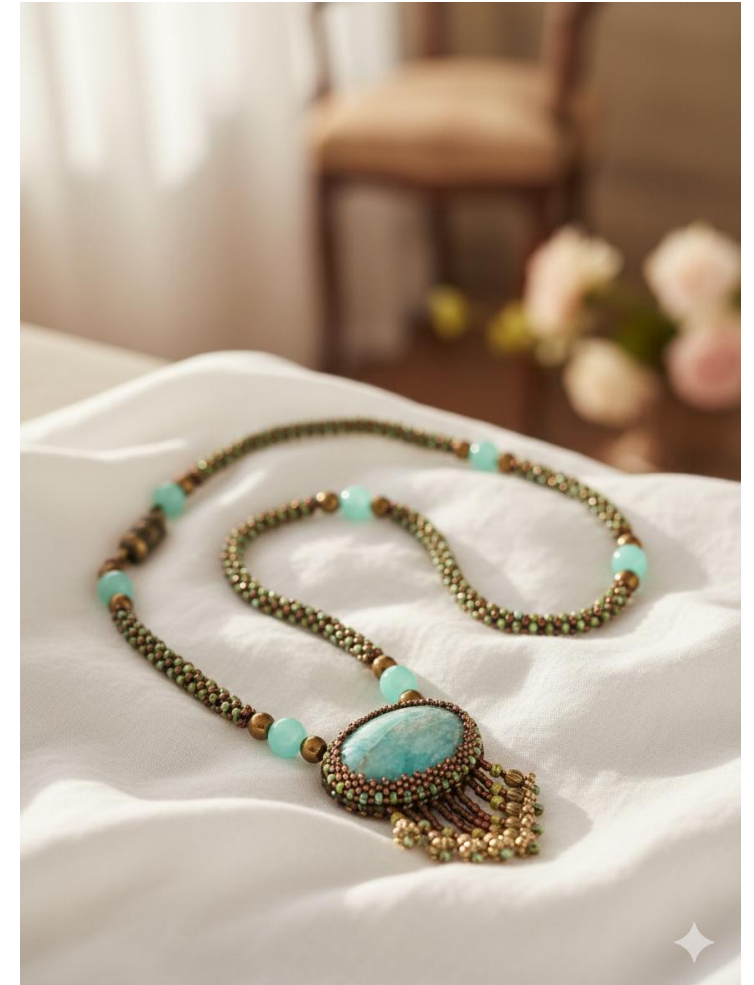
An editorial fashion photograph of this necklace resting on a piece of white raw silk. Soft, diffused 'Golden Hour' lighting. Reflective hints of light, shallow depth of field, blurred elegant background. The focus is sharp on the center texture. Luxury brand aesthetic.

Original photo



Artist: Jill Ballard

RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Jewelry Prompt

The Goal: Photo of the necklace on a model

PROMPT

Create a mockup of this exact necklace, lifestyle close-up focusing on the neck of a woman, in a luxurious style. The overall aesthetic is modern and artful, evoking sophistication. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality.

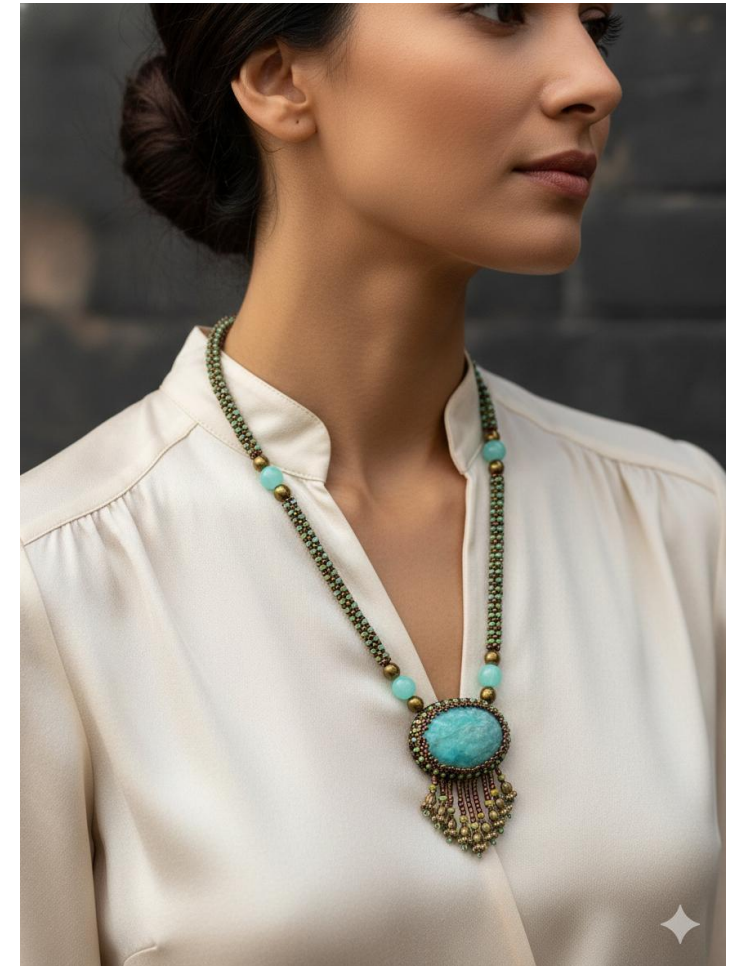
Original photo



Artist: Jill Ballard



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Ceramic Art Prompt

The Goal: Display the artwork in a museum setting

PROMPT

Place this ceramic piece in a high-end art gallery. It should be on a clean white pedestal with a museum-style spotlight. There should be a blurred person in the background to give it scale. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality.

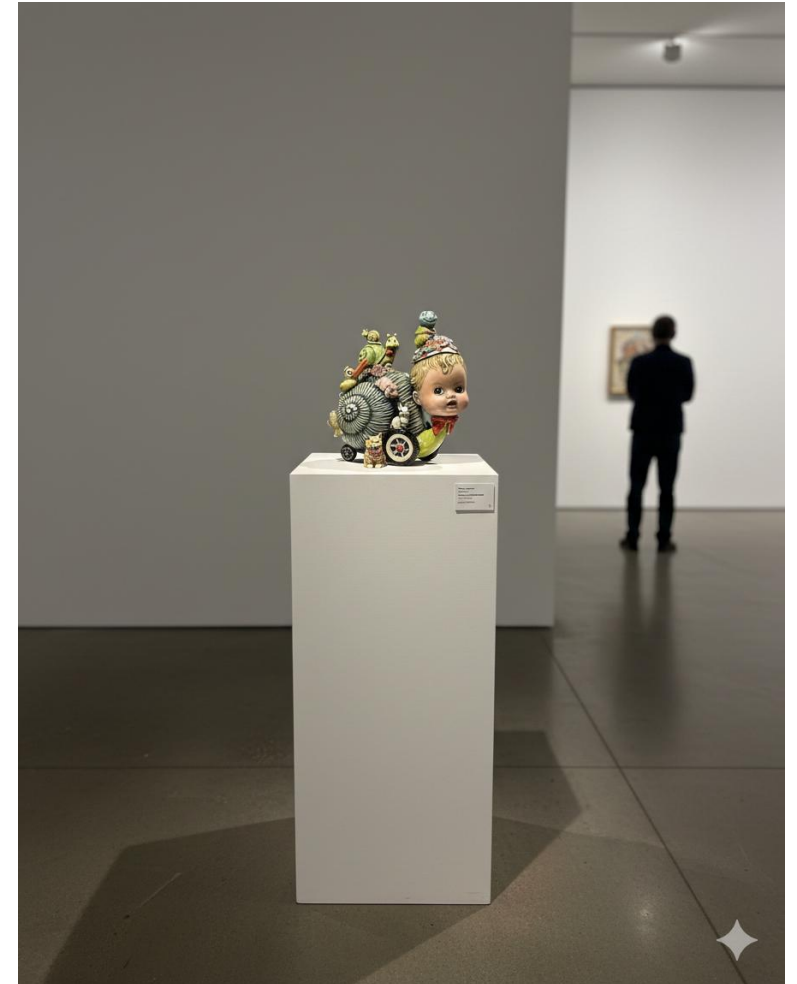
Original photo



Artist: Sue DeWulf



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Ceramic Art Prompt

The Goal: Product staging for websites and publications.

PROMPT

Create a mockup of this exact ceramic artwork in a whimsical sunlit pottery studio. Soft focus background, natural lighting. Make the ceramic piece the focal point. Important: crisp detail, realistic product presentation quality.

Original photo



Artist: Sue DeWulf



RESULT



Using Gemini, Nano Banana

Iteration is Key, Do Not Restart (unless AI keeps generating the same image)

You likely won't get perfection on the first try. Iteration is where AI becomes powerful.

- *Adjust lighting*
- *Change colors*
- *Add or remove props*
- *Refine scale*

ORIGINAL PROMPT

Soft focus background, warm
organic lighting with soft shadows.



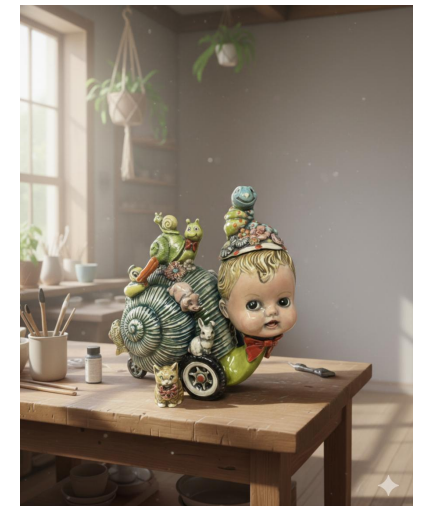
2ND ITERATION

Soft focus background,
natural lighting.



3RD & 4TH ITERATIONS

- 3) Make the ceramic piece smaller in scale.
- 4) Remove most of the items in the background, focusing just on the main ceramic piece.



Final Takeaways

- AI is an optional tool, not an identity
- The most valuable part of art is still human: intention, story, skill, and heart
- Artists who use AI effectively gain time, clarity, and sustainability

**AI does not make art meaningful.
Artists do.**



More Prompts to for Artists

Ready-to-copy prompts artists can use

Ideation & Brainstorming

1. Series generator

“Give me 12 cohesive series concepts around [theme]. For each: a one-sentence concept, 3 visual motifs, and a suggested color mood.”

2. Avoid clichés, find fresh angles

“What are 10 fresh angles on [subject] that avoid common clichés? Include symbolism, composition ideas, and mood.”

3. Composition variations

“Take this concept: [your concept]. Give me 12 variations that change one element at a time (pose, background, palette, era, weather, viewpoint).”

4. Color palettes that match meaning

“Suggest 10 limited palettes for a series on [theme]. For each palette: 5 colors, mood words, and best lighting scenario.”

5. Creative block: fast studies

“I feel stuck. Give me 10 tiny studies I can complete in 20 minutes each in [medium]. Make them playful and low-pressure.”

Reference & Visualization

1. Lighting study references

“Create 10 reference scenarios for lighting a [subject] with [mood]. For each: light direction, intensity, color temperature, background value, and the key shadow shapes to watch for.”

2. Pose and gesture options

“Give me 12 pose ideas for a [figure/character] that communicates [emotion/story]. Include camera angle, weight distribution, silhouette notes, and one prop or gesture that clarifies the intent.”

3. Material and texture reference map

“I’m painting/drawing [material] (examples: satin, wool, weathered wood, glazed ceramic, skin). Describe the key visual cues: highlight behavior, edge quality, value range, common folds or wear patterns, and 5 mistakes artists make.”

4. Environment visualization (setting builder)

“Design 8 environment concepts for a piece about [theme]. For each: setting, time of day, weather, dominant shapes, 3 texture cues, and one symbolic object. Keep it grounded and avoid clichés.”

5. Composition thumbnail guide

“Generate 10 thumbnail composition plans for [subject]. For each: focal point placement, big value shapes, leading lines, negative space strategy, and suggested crop (square/portrait/landscape).”

Tedious Studio Tasks

- 1. Background cleanup (keep art unchanged)**

“Remove all background distractions (clutter, glare, shadows, tape, frame hardware, wrinkles, dust) while keeping the artwork and subject 100% unchanged. Preserve all edges and texture. Maintain natural lighting and add only a subtle, realistic shadow if needed.”
- 2. Straighten + perspective correction**

“Straighten this photo and correct lens distortion so the artwork is perfectly level and rectangular. Keep the image uncropped. Preserve color accuracy, fine detail, and texture.”
- 3. Cutout for mockups (transparent PNG)**

“Create a clean cutout of the artwork with a transparent background (PNG). Keep the artwork unchanged, preserve crisp edges, include the full boundary, and avoid halos or missing corners.”
- 4. Upscale for print (no style changes)**

“Upscale this image to [final size] at 300 DPI for printing. Preserve sharp edges, brush texture, and fine details. Do not alter colors, add new details, or change the style. Reduce noise and compression artifacts only.”
- 5. Test changes before committing (digital paint-over)**

“Create 5 non-destructive paint-over variations of this piece to test: (1) warmer palette, (2) cooler palette, (3) higher contrast, (4) softer edges, (5) simplified background. Keep the original drawing and forms intact. Present them as labeled options.”

Business & Communication

1. Artist statement (authentic, not salesy)

“Write a 150–250 word artist statement for my work in [medium] about [themes]. Keep it professional, grounded, and personal. Avoid marketing language and clichés. Emphasize process, intent, and what I’m exploring. Tone: [quiet/poetic/direct].”

2. Exhibition or gallery blurb

“Draft a 100–150 word exhibition description for this collection titled [title]. Include the central idea, what viewers might notice, and the emotional atmosphere. No hype, no buzzwords. End with one inviting sentence for slow looking.”

3. Grant application help (tight and specific)

“Help me answer this grant prompt in 250–400 words: ‘Describe your project and why it matters.’ Use concrete details: subject, materials, process, timeline, and intended outcome. Keep the voice honest and specific. Ask me 5 questions first if needed.”

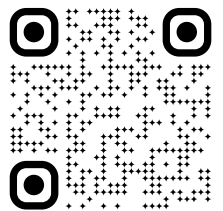
4. Product listing description (clear + human)

“Write a clear, straightforward listing description for [product] based on these notes: [paste]. Include: what it is, materials, size/options, how it’s made, and care/display info. Tone: calm and friendly. Avoid exaggeration.”

5. Client email (commissions or inquiries)

“Draft a warm, professional email replying to a client asking about a commission. Include: thanks, a quick process overview, timeline, pricing range, what info you need from them, and next steps. Keep it concise and confident.”

THANK YOU!



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