Loish Patreon ♥

TUTORIAL CHEAT SHEET //
ENVIRONMENT ESSENTIALS

TOOLS
All of these can be swapped for cheaper alternatives/

➤ **PHOTOSHOP**
I use this software to paint.

➤ **WES GARDNER BRUSH PACK 2020**
This is where I get most of my textured brushes from.

KEY LESSONS

- How to build up the **basic layers** of your environment painting

- How to **add depth** with gradients and atmospheric perspective

- How to **distribute detail** in a way that maximizes the depth

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OTHER RESOURCES

➤ **CREATING A STYLIZED ENVIRONMENT STUDY**
This tutorial talks about how I use a reference image as a jumping off point to create my own interpretation.

➤ **DRAWING ENVIRONMENTS IN PROCREATE**
This tutorial shows you how I approach environments using Procreate on the iPad.

APPEAL OF ENVIRONMENTS

ATMOSPHERIC PERSPECTIVE // This creates depth and a sense of vastness and majesty.

COLOR // The colors are cohesive and unified, and have an immersive effect.

DETAIL // Detail invites us into the image, and can spark the imagination when we look at it.

ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES

- **COLOR TRANSITIONS //** In order to capture depth, we need to be able to create soft color transitions. You can use the gradient, a soft brush, or blur tools.

- **TEXTURE //** To avoid painstakingly painting in every detail, we need to use texture. You can use textured brushes, or copy/paste textured images into your artwork.

TIPS

INVEST IN TEXTURED BRUSHES
You don't necessarily have to invest money, but definitely invest time into finding textured brushes.

DON'T OVERBLEND YOUR TEXTURES
The more you layer your brushstrokes, the less texture you will have. Make sure you don't over-render and lose the texture and depth in your painting.

BALANCE LARGE & SMALL DETAILS
Foreground details look very different than details which are further away from the eye, so make sure you approach each level of depth differently when painting the details.

SECTION	TIMECODE	DESCRIPTION
INTRO	01:28	How I learned my environments workflow over time
	05:44	What makes environment images appealing
DEMO	10:17	Step 01 // building up the basic layers
	15:00	Essential techniques for adding depth & texture
	19:00	Step 02 // adding color gradations
	23:39	Step 03 // adding color perspective
	27:22	Step 04 // adding detail
	39:06	Recap of the steps
TIPS	40:49	Tips

DEMO // STEPS

01 // BUILDING UP THE BASIC LAYERS | TIMECODE: 10:17
- Make a quick sketch to figure out your basic composition.
- Break up your reference image into separate layers.
- Add these to your sketch one by one, each on a separate layer.

02 // ADD COLOR GRADATION | TIMECODE: 19:00
- Lock the transparency / alpha on your layers.
- Use the gradient tool, or any other tool of your preference, to add gradients and color transitions to each layer one by one.

03 // ADD COLOR PERSPECTIVE | TIMECODE: 23:39
- Add more depth by adding effects that create haziness or show the effect of the atmosphere on larger objects in your environment setting.
- Focus on the horizon and push the contrast in this area.

04 // ADD DETAIL | TIMECODE: 27:22
- On a separate layer, start painting in the details. Do so in three separate areas:
  - *Foreground:* large, high-contrast detail.
  - *Background:* noisy low-contrast detail.
  - *Mid-ground:* somewhere in between.
- Make sure you don't over-blend the details or disrupt the color transitions you established in earlier stages.