

Loish Patreon ♥

TUTORIAL CHEAT SHEET // ROADMAP FOR ARTISTIC IMPROVEMENT

KEY LESSONS

- The importance of **skills, decision making,** and **mental health** for artistic growth
- **Debunking the myths** that artistic growth is linear, and that your art will be bad if you don't build up skills in the right order
- How artistic growth happens over time, and how it is linked to having gradually more **headspace** and room to think
- How to **troubleshoot** your own art so that you can figure out what to focus on right now

TIPS

FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL

We need feedback to figure out what areas of our art need work, but we need to make sure to filter it so we use the feedback that is actually helpful to us.

GOALPOSTS SHIFT

As your skills improve, your standards will shift, so make sure you don't get caught in a cycle of thinking your art is never good enough as you improve.

COMFORT ZONES GROW

As your skills improve, certain things will get easier, but also more boring. Seek it out when you need to recover, and leave it when you need excitement.

TUTORIALS REFERENCED

01 // COMFORT ZONE

- > [My workflow in Procreate](#)
- > [Sculpting with color](#)

02 // LEARNING TO OBSERVE

- > [Exercises for improving your skills](#)
- > [Drawing environments in Procreate](#)

03 // BUILDING SKILLS

Construction

- > [Constructing a pose](#)
- > [Constructing faces & expressions](#)
- > [Creating light & flowy sketches](#)

Finalizing & presentation

- > [Choosing colors](#)
- > [Simple tricks for lighting & mood](#)
- > [Making your sketch presentable](#)
- > [Elevating your sketch by adding color](#)

Elevating

- > [Finalizing without over-rendering](#)
- > [Making your digital portraits more interesting](#)

04 // MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

- > [Environment essentials](#)

05 // CULTIVATING YOUR VOICE

- > [Creating interesting & flowy shapes](#)
- > [Using your creative spark for ideas](#)
- > [Stylizing trees & plants](#)

ROADMAP // STAGES

01 // THE COMFORT ZONE | TIMECODE: 14:59

- **Prioritize when:** Your process consists mostly of just fighting with the tools.
- **Focus on:** Playing around, experimenting, finding a workflow that you can do semi-automatically.
- **Helpful exercises:** Testing out different workflows & brushes
- **Move to the next phase when:** You are not focusing purely on the tools anymore.

02 // LEARNING TO OBSERVE | TIMECODE: 18:14

- **Prioritize when:** You don't know where to go with your work and haven't set clear creative goals
- **Focus on:** Analyzing and studying art and the world around you to find out what excites you
- **Helpful exercises:** Master studies, studies from photo reference, observing & analyzing art
- **Move to the next phase when:** You have a clearer idea of your artistic goals

03 // BUILDING SKILLS | TIMECODE: 22:36

- **Prioritize when:** Your art is not giving you the results that you have in mind when starting out.
- **Focus on:** Building your skills from the ground up.
- **Move to the next phase when:** Your skills bring you closer to the end result you had in mind.

A // CONSTRUCTION | TIMECODE: 23:23

- **Focus on:** Improving basic shapes and proportions, capturing depth and movement
- **Helpful exercises:** Speed sketching, gesture sketching, drawing cylinders, squares & circles

B // FINALIZING & PRESENTATION | TIMECODE: 26:10

- **Focus on:** Creating unified color schemes, adding decorative elements
- **Helpful exercises:** Add color to sketches, finalizing rough ideas, creating quick studies and sketches in color

C // ELEVATING | TIMECODE: 30:00

- **Focus on:** Pushing the detail in your art, rendering & detailing
- **Helpful exercises:** Studies where you push the detail, creating detailed finished works

04 // MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY | TIMECODE: 34:13

- **Prioritize when:** Your skills are improving but your workflow is laborious
- **Focus on:** Working faster, finding shortcuts and helpful tricks, spending less time for better results
- **Helpful exercises:** Speedpaints, cutting steps out of your workflow
- **Move to the next phase when:** You are feeling confident about your ability to draw quickly

05 // CULTIVATING YOUR VOICE | TIMECODE: 37:04

- **Prioritize when:** You have well developed skills but your work feels derivative or boring.
- **Focus on:** Pushing the stylization and themes in your work to be more unique to you
- **Helpful exercises:** Making stylized studies, drawing from the imagination, trying new tools
- **Move to the first phase when:** You are ready to take on a new challenge and start from the beginning!

SECTION	TIMECODE	DESCRIPTION
INTRO	02:08	My own artistic growth over time
	05:06	Debunking common myths about artistic growth
ROADMAP	11:33	Roadmap - the overview
	14:59	Phase 01 // the comfort zone
	18:14	Phase 02 // learning to observe
	22:36	Phase 03 // building your skills - general
	23:23	Phase 03 // building your skills - construction
	26:10	Phase 03 // building your skills - finalizing & presentation
	30:00	Phase 03 // building your skills - elevating
	34:13	Phase 04 // maximizing efficiency
	37:04	Phase 05 // Cultivating your voice
CONCLUSION	40:11	Troubleshooting your area of focus
	42:40	Tips