

Preamble: “What is this interview about?”

The goal of this interview is to better understand how artists who create work digitally use reference imagery in their creative process.

In this interview I will ask you a few questions about your creative process, in particular how you use and integrate reference imagery into your workflow. And don't worry, there are no right or wrong answers!

INTERVIEW BEGINS

Openers / broad questions

1. Firstly, I'd like to know more about the environment you use to create digital art with:
 - a. Physical workspace, Can you please describe it for me?
 - b. (Operating system, software, device, any information you feel relevant).

Walkthrough

1. Think back to a recent project or image where you required the use of reference imagery:
 - a. Can you walk me through **why** you required the use of reference imagery?
 - b. Can you walk me through **how** you used reference imagery in this creative process?
 - c. ... what do you think worked well when using reference imagery in your process?
 - d. ... did you experience any difficulties or points of tension when using imagery in your process?
2. Is there a specific point in your process when you use reference imagery?
3. How often do you use reference imagery in your process?
4. What software do you use when using reference imagery?

Getting a bit more specific (try to ask these during walk through).

1. What are the different roles that the reference imagery plays in your creative process?
2. When you are using your reference imagery, is it always visible or do you only want to see for a small amount of time? Where do you place it relative to the artwork you're working on?

3. Can you describe how you view reference imagery? In a web browser beside your canvas, as a photoshop layer, etc?
4. Do you manipulate/alter the reference imagery during the process?
 - a. E.g. do you create your own reference imagery?
5. How did you learn how to use reference imagery?
6. Do you tend to place the reference image in a manner that is always visible?
7. How do you manage your creative voice when using reference?

Collecting/Organizing reference imagery:

1. How do you collect and organize your reference imagery for later or future use?
2. Do you maintain a larger collection of reference imagery? If so, how do you organize it?
3. "You mentioned you use reference imagery for different purposes, such as A, B, C"] How does the reason why you're using reference imagery impact the way in which you organize your collection of reference images?

Big Dreaming

Imagine there are no technical or time limitations and a team of computer scientists/programmers/designers can implement an ideal solution to support your creative process with reference. What type of tools would you want to work with, and what types of tasks would you like to be facilitated?

If you are comfortable doing so:

Can you provide a photo of your physical workspace?

Can you provide a photo of how you collect/organize reference?

Can you provide a screenshot of what your "average" digital workspace looks like?

OUTRO

Thank the interviewee for their time.

Answer any questions they have.