

LESSON IDEA

Repeating Patterns

ART & DESIGN



Learn with
Procreate[®]



Lesson ideas

Use these Lesson Ideas to spark your imagination for using Procreate in the classroom. Feel free to take them further and make them your own.

Repeating Patterns

Student will learn how to draw a seamless pattern and turn it into a repeating tile. These can be used to create fabric, wall-papers, cushions or anything that features a repeating image.

All you need is an iPad and the following app:



Procreate

Educational Value

- ✓ Students develop skills for art-making by exploring digital techniques and processes.
- ✓ Students understand and explore digital design and fabrication processes.
- ✓ Students understand shape constancy regardless of degree or rotation.



In this guide

1	Get started
2	Illustrate your elements
4	Prepare your tile
7	Split your elements
13	Arrange
14	Repeat
17	Apply
18	Take it further

Get started

1.

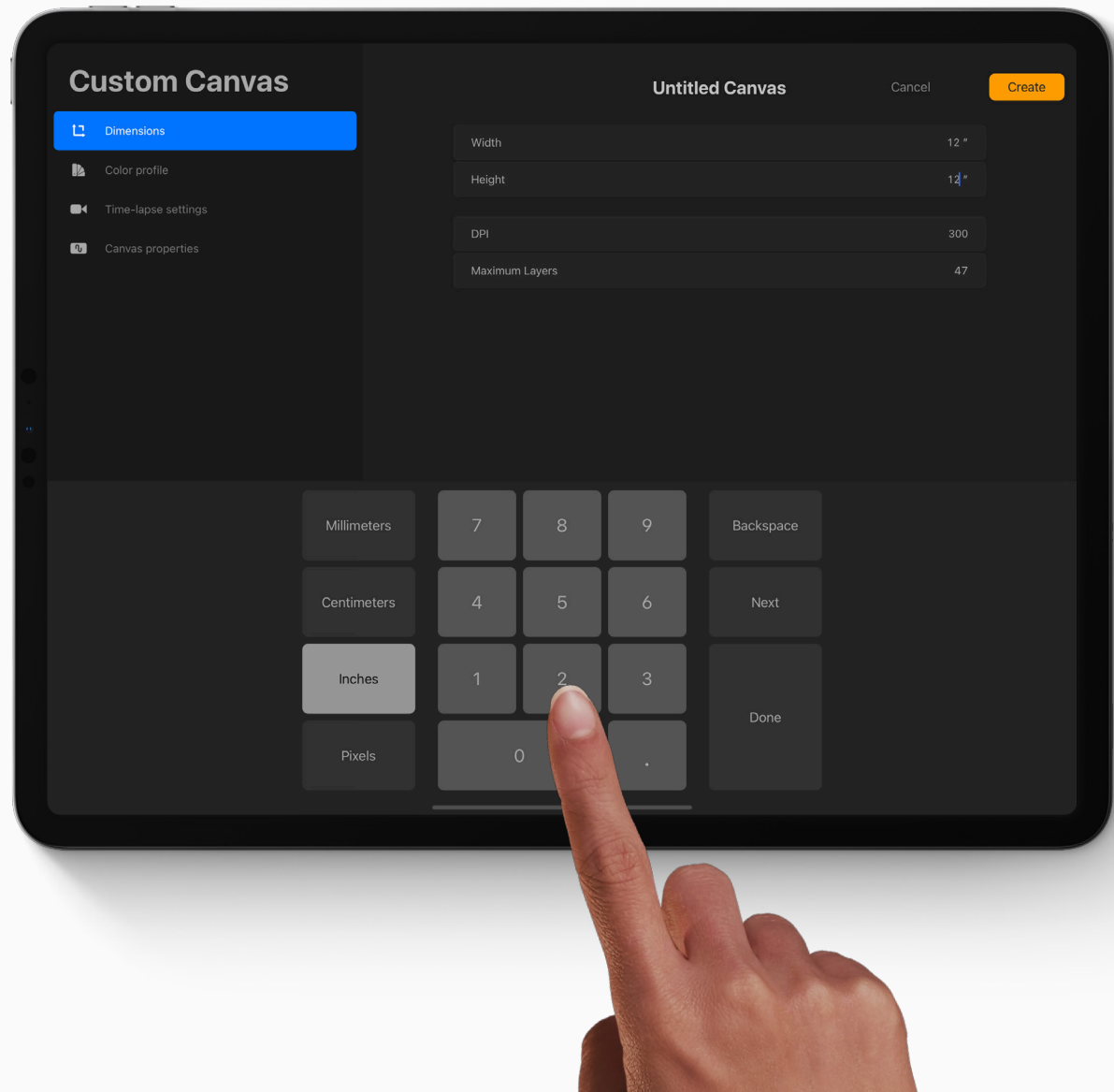
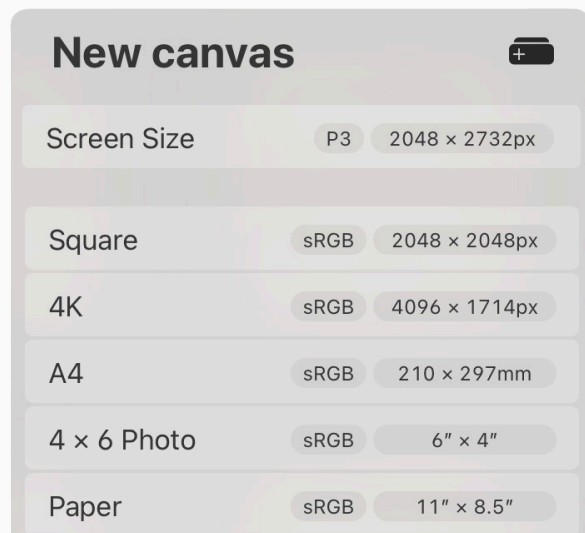
Create a new canvas

In the gallery tap the + icon to bring up the *New Canvas* menu.

Next tap the icon of a rectangle with a + in the top right, to create a custom canvas that is 12 inches wide and 12 inches high.

Set the DPI to 300. (This means it's high enough quality for printing)

CREATE A
CUSTOM CANVAS



Illustrate your elements

Draw your main elements

Decide on three main elements that will appear in your repeat pattern. These can be anything – plants, planets, the sky is the limit.

- * Make sure each of these elements takes up about a quarter of the space, and is drawn on their own layer.
- * Start with the base colors, and then add detail and texture using masks or alpha lock to assist you.



Draw your filler elements

Draw a collection of 4 smaller elements, continuing to use your first color palette.

- * Have each of these separate on their own layer too.
- * As with the primary elements, start drawing with the base colors and then add detail and texture.



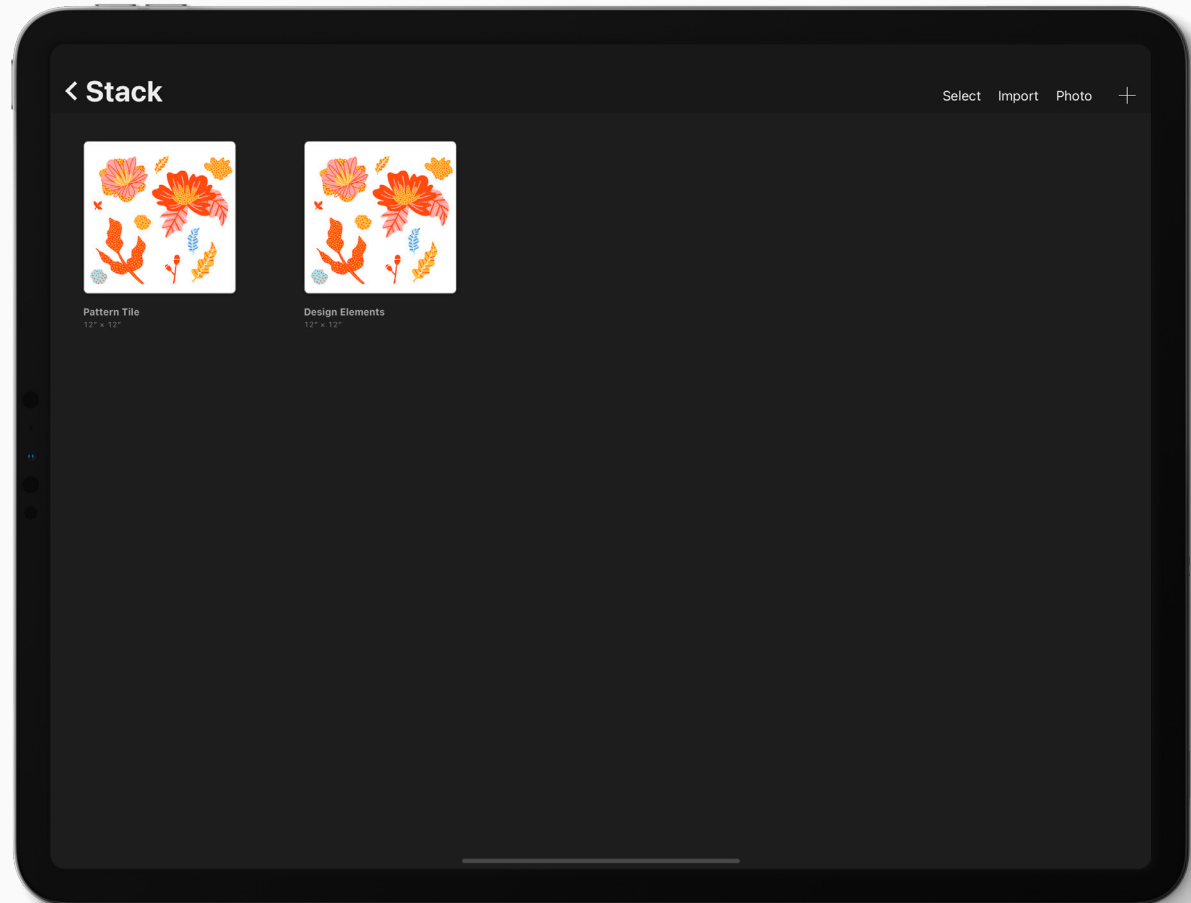
Prepare your tile

4.

Duplicate your file

Make a copy of your file so you have a working version of your complete design elements, and a new document to turn into a pattern tile.

- 1 Tap *Gallery* to go back to the Gallery.
- 2 Tap *Select*.
- 3 Tap to select your artwork, then tap *Duplicate*.
- 4 Tap on the file name where it says 'Untitled Artwork', and rename one file 'Design elements' and the other 'Pattern tile'.



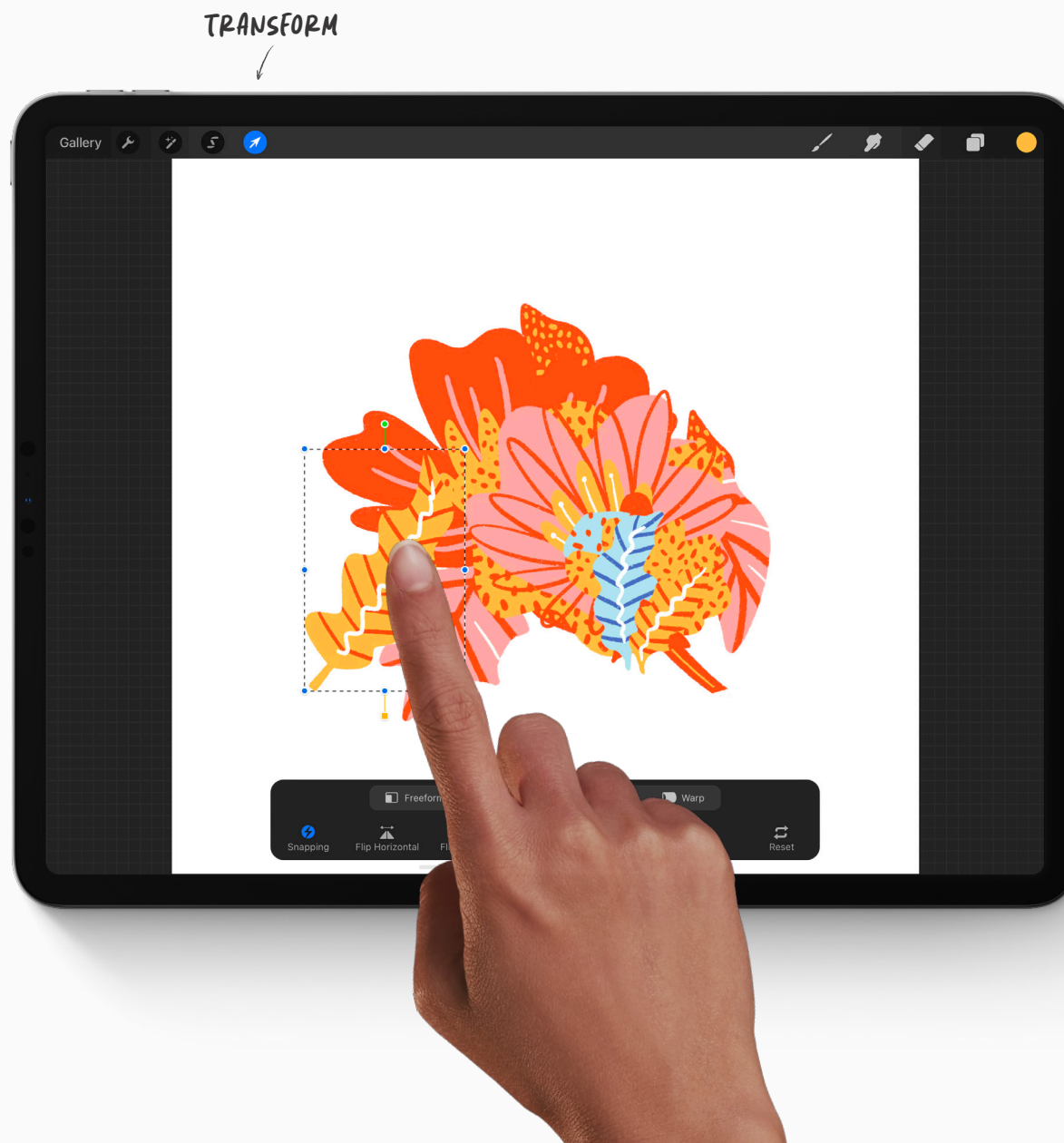
Move your elements

Go into your 'Pattern tile' document.

All of your elements should be on an individual layer. Use the *Transform* tool to move each of them into a pile in the middle of your canvas.

WHY?

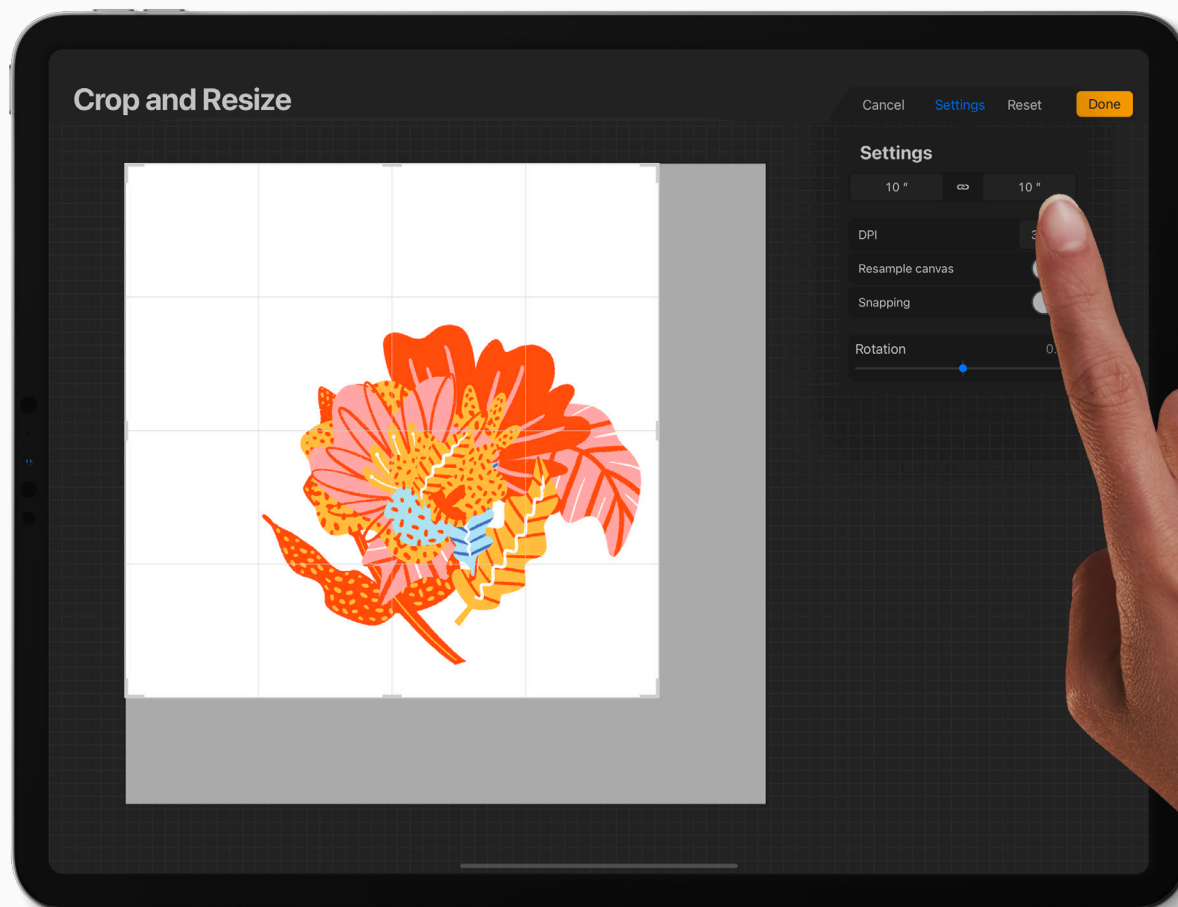
This is because you are about to make your canvas smaller, and we don't want to lose any of your design elements.



Crop your canvas

Resize your tile so that each of your design elements fills up more space on the canvas, and you don't lose resolution by enlarging them.

- 1 Tap the wrench icon to open the *Actions* menu.
- 2 Then tap *Canvas*.
- 3 Then tap *Crop and Resize*.
- 4 Tap *Settings*, and then enter the dimensions 10" x 10". Make sure all of your design elements are in the safe area, and tap *Done*.

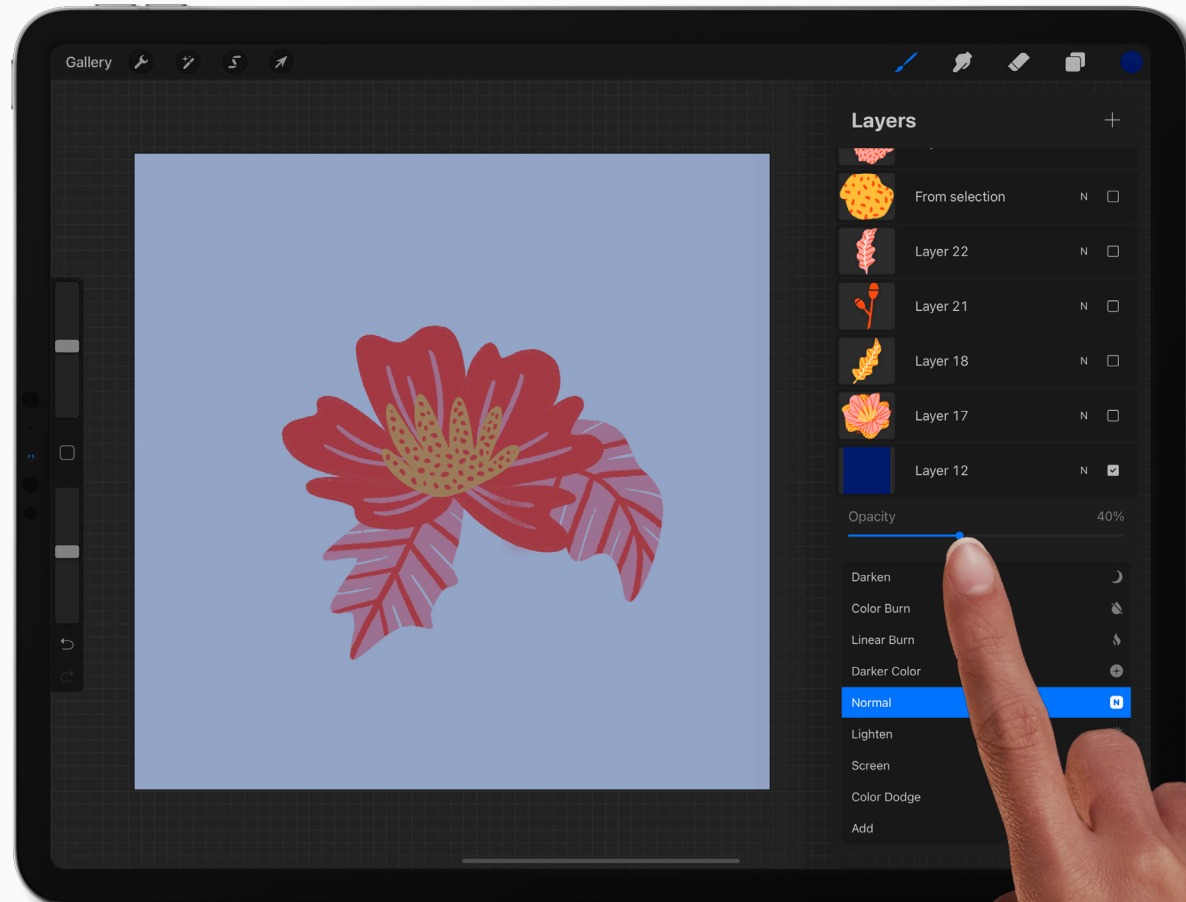


Split your elements

7.

Create a guide layer

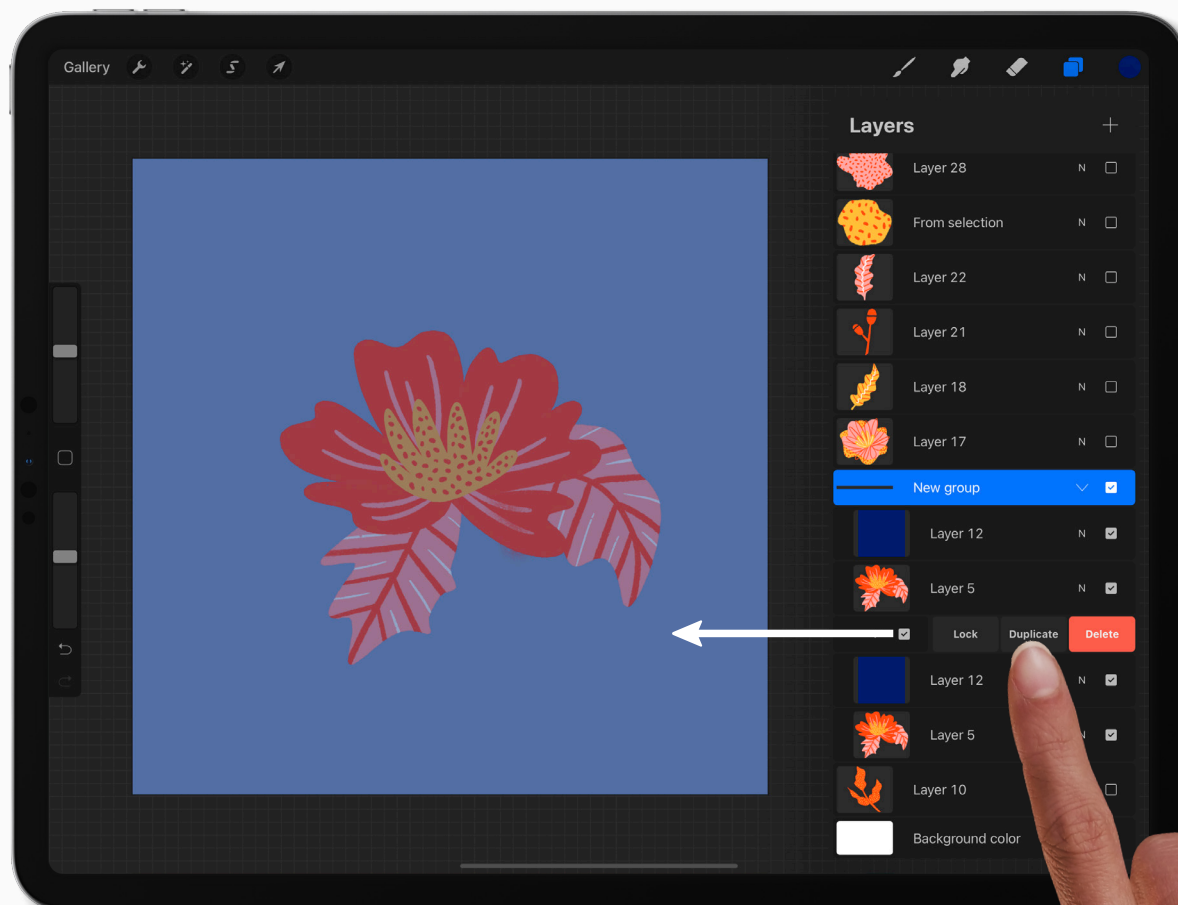
- 1 Hide all of your layers except your largest design element using the *Visibility Checkboxes* in the layers panel.
- 2 Next, tap the **+** icon to add a new layer above your active layer.
- 3 Pick a dark, contrasting color using the color picker and use ColorDrop to fill the new layer.
- 4 Tap the **N** to open the Blend Modes panel, and slide the *Opacity slider* to the left to 40%.



Group and duplicate

Swipe right to select the layer your illustration is on, and tap *Group* to create a group with both your design element and the color guide.

Then swipe left on this group, and tap *Duplicate*, to create a second copy of this layer.



To the left

Tap the arrow icon in the top-left to open the *Transform* menu.

Tap the Lightning icon in the bottom-left to open Snapping settings, and toggle on *Snapping*.

In your *Layers Panel*, select your first group and drag it to the left so that some of your design element falls off the edge of your canvas.

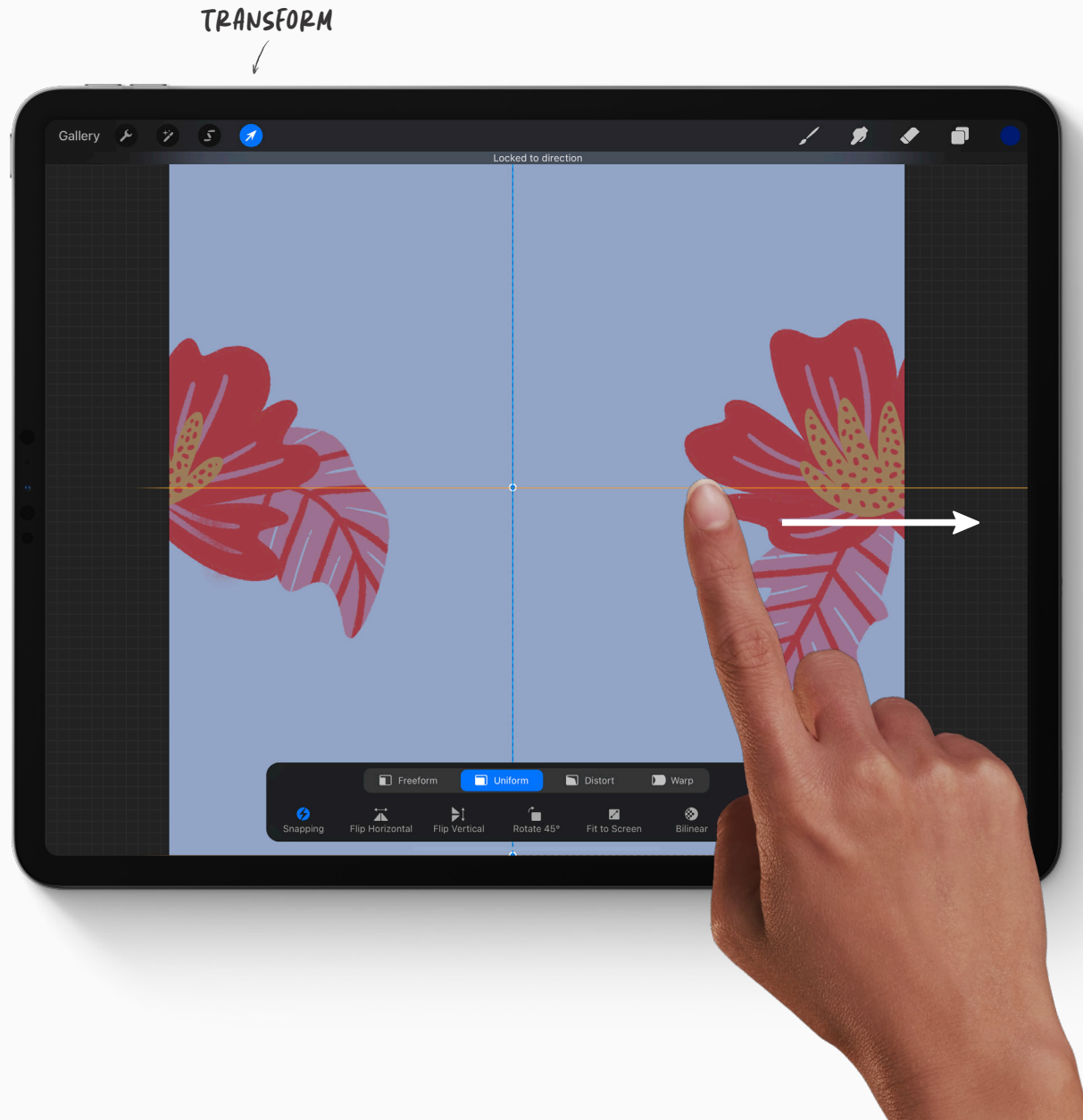


To the right

Now select the copy of your group and move it to the right so that the solid color guide perfectly aligns with the other color.

TOP TIP

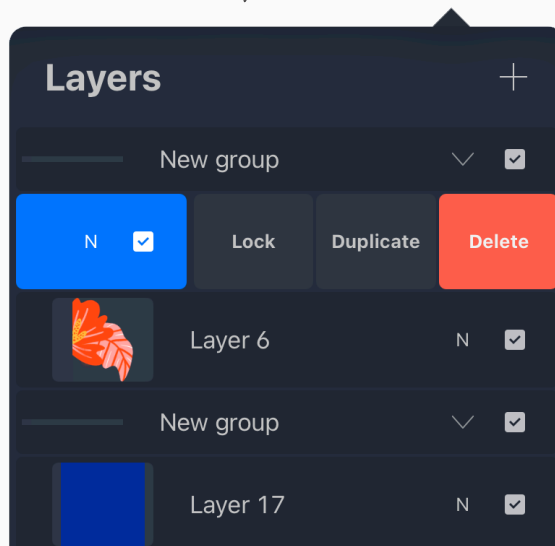
Zoom in to ensure there is no white gap, or dark overlap between your color guides. They must line up perfectly. The yellow and blue snapping lines will indicate if they are in alignment.



Combine

Swipe left on your color guide layers to delete them, and then pinch to merge the two halves of your design element together.

SWIPE LEFT ON A
LAYER TO REVEAL



Repeat

Repeat this process with your second-largest design element, but this time on the top and bottom edges of the tile.



Arrange

13.

Lay out your remaining elements

Arrange your remaining design elements, working from largest to largest.

TOP TIPS

- * Make sure you don't let any of these touch or fall off the edges of the tile, but do get them close.
- * Turn off Snapping so that you can be more organic in how you place your designs.
- * Remember you can *Duplicate*, *Flip* and *Rotate* to help fill in all the gaps nicely.
- * Now is a great time to add a background color to your tile. Tap the Layers icon to open the *Layers Panel*, and scroll to the bottom to edit the *Background Color*.



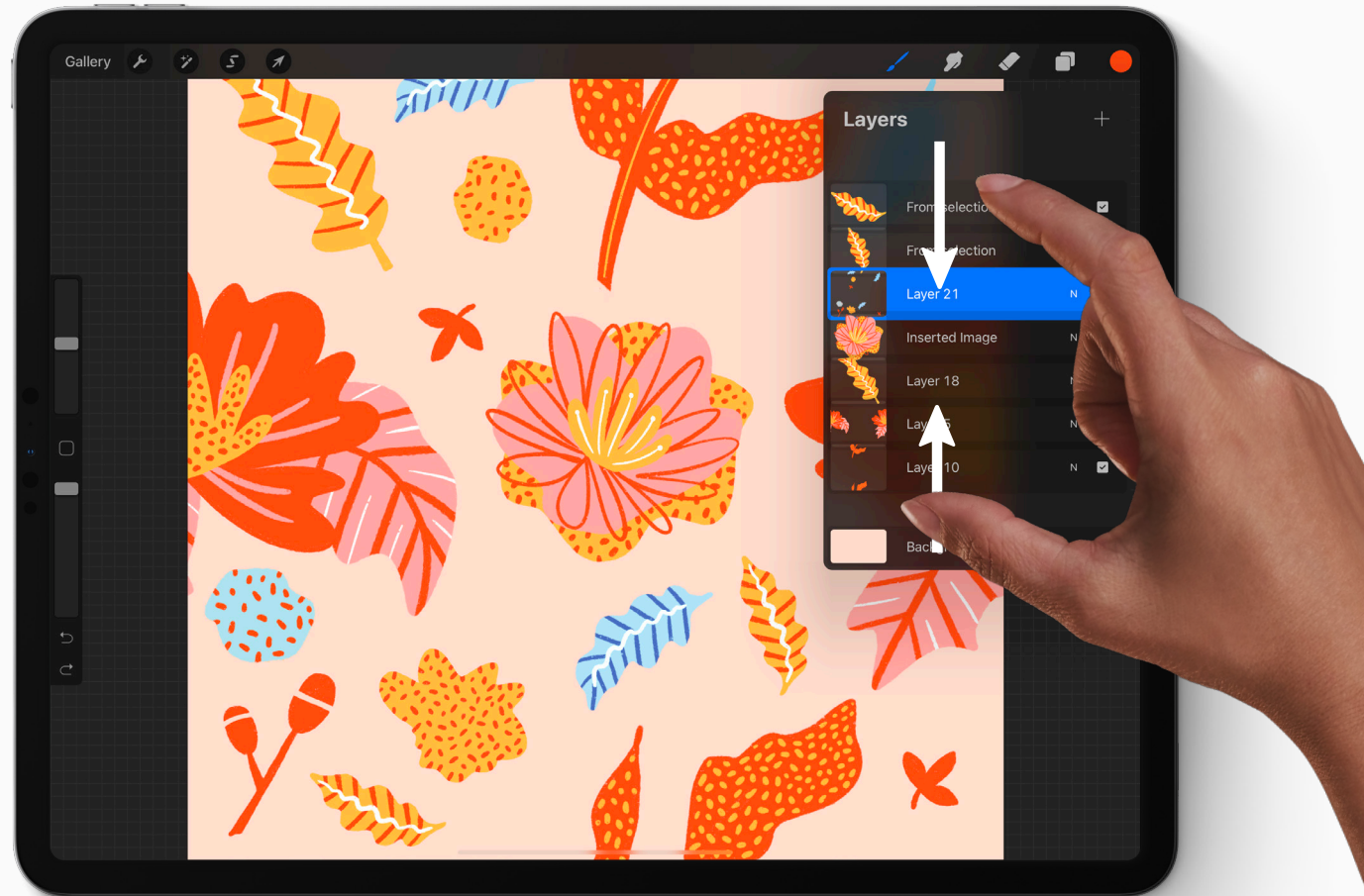
Repeat

14.

Merge your layers

Go back to the gallery, and again duplicate your file, so that the tile you just created is saved as a separate copy.

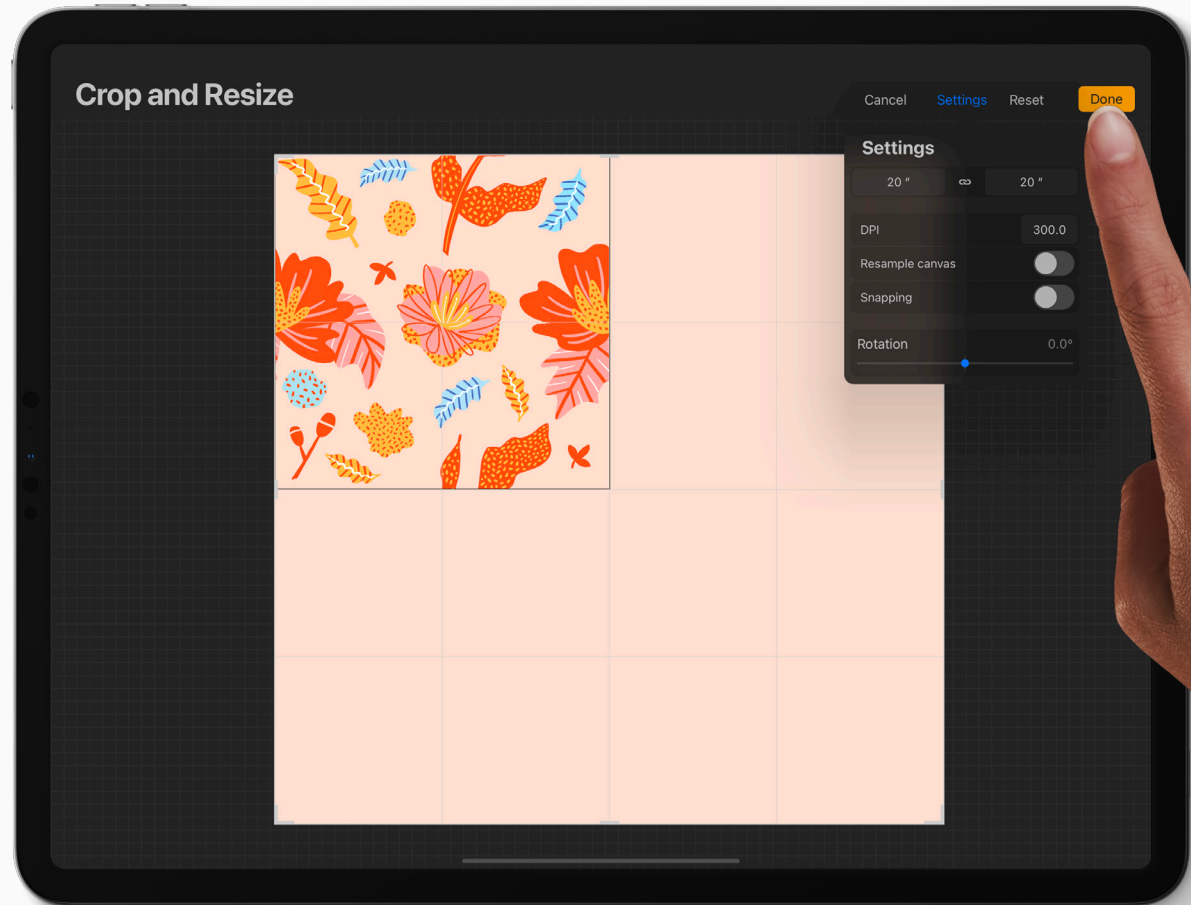
In your new version, pinch to merge all the layers together.



Resize your canvas

Increase the size of your canvas so you can test your pattern tile.

- 1 Tap the wrench icon to open the *Actions* menu.
- 2 Then tap *Canvas*.
- 3 Then tap *Crop and Resize*.
- 4 Tap Settings, and then enter the dimensions 20" x 20". Then tap *Done*.



Repeat the pattern

Swipe left on your tile layer to duplicate your pattern, and use the *Transform* tool with *Snapping* turned on to move it across to the right.

Repeat for the bottom two quarters of your design, and check that your pattern lines up on every edge.

TOP TIP

As before, ensure that there are no gaps or overlaps, and that the yellow snapping guides appear.

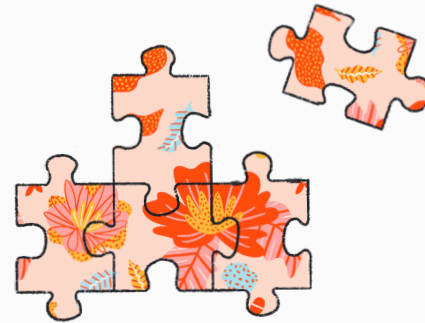


Apply

17.

Use your design

Now that your pattern is complete you can use the design to create wallpapers for your devices, covers for exercise books, and more.



WHAT PATTERNED OBJECTS
DO YOU OWN? HOW COULD
YOU REDESIGN THEM?



Take it further

18.

Create a pattern brush

Save your tile as a PNG, and use it as a brush texture to create your own brush.

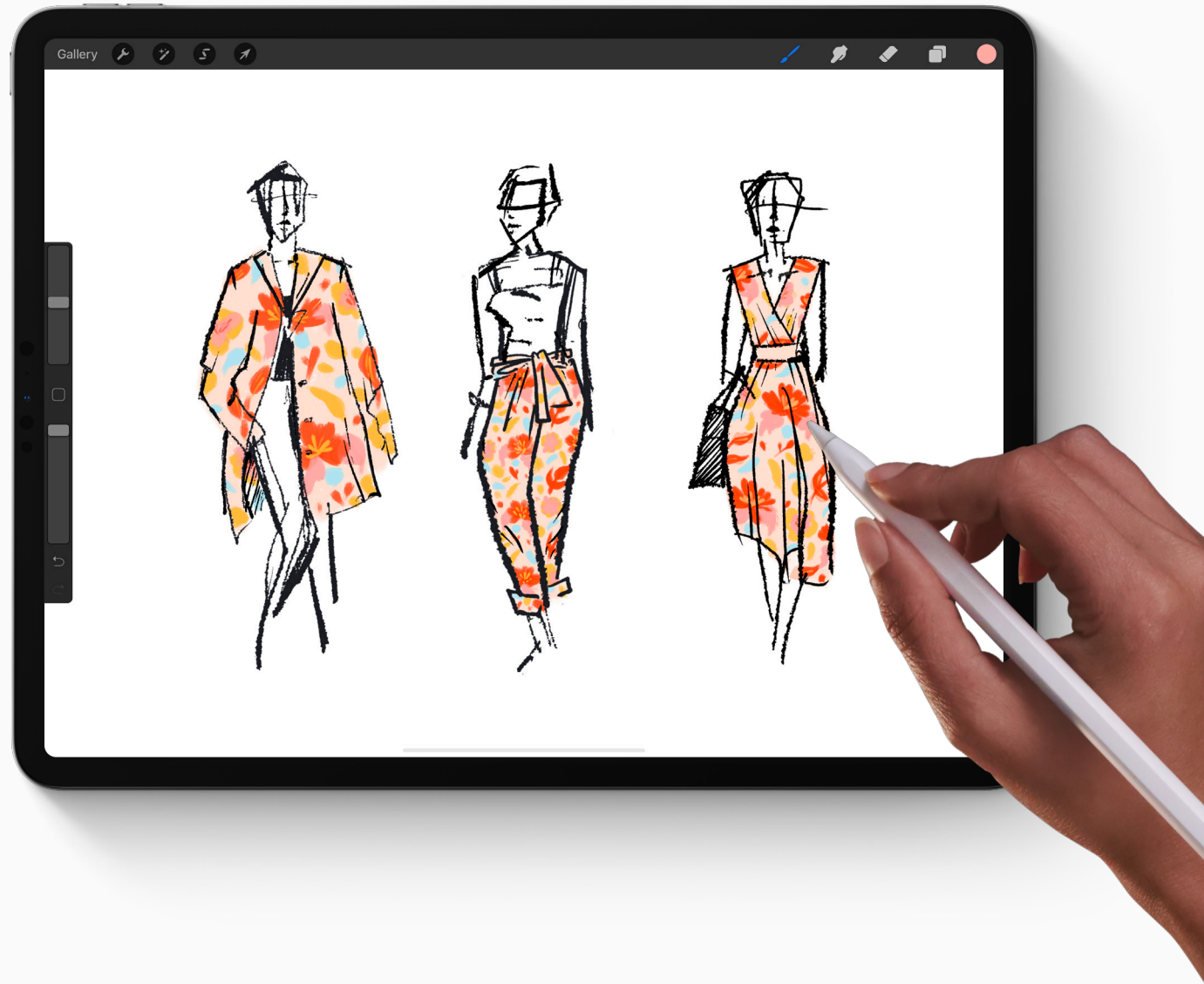
You can find out how in the [Make a Brush](#) lesson idea, and use your pattern rather than a photo.



Textile and garment design

Now that you've designed a pattern, design garments or interior items that it could be used on.

Once you've designed your patterned items, have your designs printed onto fabric and make them real!



Create

Artistic expression helps make education meaningful, memorable and fun. Find more creative lesson ideas at education.procreate.art

To dive deeper into the full creative potential of Procreate, see our Handbook at procreate.art/handbook



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