Digital Art: Drawing in GIMP

Digital art can be created in many different ways, with many different tools. You can create digital art without freehand painting and a graphics tablet. This chapter will show you how you can create digital art with GIMP’s tools.

In This Chapter

- How to draw in GIMP
- Draw with selections
- Drawing freely
- Paint without a tablet

How to Draw in GIMP

In principle, all painting tools can be used for drawing, too. How can you create geometric forms with only a mouse and no assistive tools like a drawing pad? It can be achieved by doing any of the following:

- Drawing freehand aided by GIMP (for example, straight lines)
- Creating a selection that reflects any geometric form (for example, circles, ellipses, or squares) and filling or stroking the outline with a paint tool
- Emulating the painting with the dedicated paths tool

You can also refer to Chapter 8, where we introduced every aspect of choosing foreground colors and paint tools, as well as navigating your workspace.
Tools for Drawing

All paint tools under Tools ➤ Paint Tools can be used for drawing. Most of the paint tools are more suitable for painting with a graphics tablet, but the following can be used for drawing with GIMP utilizing a mouse:

- **Pencil**: Draws lines with hard edges
- **Paintbrush**: Draws lines with soft edges
- **Eraser**: Removes strokes or parts of the drawing
- **Airbrush**: Draws fuzzy lines
- **Ink**: Writes calligraphy style lines
- **Bucket Fill**: Fills areas with a color

Size and Shapes

Every paint tool provides tool options, which allow tuning every bit of the paint tool (see Figure 9-1). The size you are drawing with and the shape of the brush will be most important to you.

![Tool Options Window](image)

*Figure 9-1. The tool options give you quick access to change the shape and size of your current brush.*