Convert Photos to Pencil Drawings with AKVIS Sketch; Special Effects Added

AKVIS LLC announces the release of AKVIS Sketch v.7.0 for Windows and Macintosh. The software converts photos to realistic pencil and watercolor drawings. The new version offers special effects that make the final photo more impressive. Create a blend of the final drawing and the original image, put an accent to a part of the image by blurring the background in an artistic way, imitate motion, add "time machine effect" to a picture by swirling the background. The new version is available as a stand-alone application, as well as a plugin to a photo editor. Upgrade for registered users is free.

Perm (PRWEB) April 29, 2008 -- AKVIS LLC announces the release of AKVIS Sketch v.7.0 for Windows and Macintosh. The software converts photos to realistic pencil and watercolor drawings. The new version offers special effects that make the final photo more impressive. Create a blend of the final drawing and the original image, put an accent to a part of the image by blurring the background in an artistic way, imitate motion, add "time machine effect" to a picture by swirling the background. The new version is available as a stand-alone application, as well as a plugin to a photo editor. Upgrade for registered users is free.

AKVIS Sketch is an award-winning program for conversion of photos into pencil sketches and watercolor drawings. Make any photo look like a B&W or color drawing, imitate the technique of graphite or color pencil, charcoal or watercolor painting.

The program works in an entertaining way. It allows observing the conversion of a photo into a drawing/watercolor in real time and even interrupting the process when the required result is achieved.

Version 7.0 offers special effects that make the final photo more impressive. Create a blend of the final drawing and the original image; imitate motion or add "time machine effect" by swirling the background; put an accent to certain parts of the image by blurring the rest of it in an artistic way. It proves especially useful when the final drawing contains too many details on the background that divert attention.

These manipulations are easy to perform thanks to the Keep/Drop pencils. To define the effect area, no complicated selection tools are needed. For example, to single out one person at a party, you can draw a rough outline within the figure with the blue pencil, and cut off the background with the green (blur) pencil. When the image is processed, the background will be blurred in a special way - it may look like a slight haze; or be in motion, as if everything around is passing by like on a highway; or the background can swirl like in a sci-fi film. It all depends on the effect settings.

Many photo editing enthusiasts have already appreciated the Sketch's features. Take a look at a gallery of examples (many created by users) at http://akvis.com/en/sketch/examples-pencil-drawing.php.

Sketch can be used on many occasions. Surprise friends and relatives by presenting them their pencil portraits. Make a watercolor drawing out of a photo from a last nature shooting to decorate a room. Convert a photo into a color sketch to print on a T-shirt. Create a comic out of party videos.
The program can be helpful to designers who need to quickly bring images to one style for a web-site or an advertisement booklet.

AKVIS Sketch has a simple interface with a few sliders. At first a user can process the image with the default settings and then touch up the photo adding color, or trying different techniques - from pencil to charcoal or watercolor. He or she can make the hatching denser or finer and change the pitch angle of strokes. After that, the user can apply a texture to imitate a painting on a canvas.

Using batch processing in Photoshop or Paint Shop pro (only for the plug-in version) a user can even convert a film into a cartoon. Like here: http://akvis.com/en/sketch-tutorial/cartoon-film.php


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AKVIS Sketch is available as a stand-alone application, as well as a plugin to a photo editor. The plugin version of AKVIS Sketch is compatible with Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, Corel Painter, Corel Photo-Paint, Paint Shop Pro, Ulead PhotoImpact. AKVIS Sketch runs on Microsoft Windows 2000/2003/XP/Vista and on Macintosh Mac OS X 10.3.9-10.5, PowerPC G3 / Intel.

AKVIS Sketch Home License (plug-in or standalone) sells for $72 USD or 55 Euro, downloadable from http://akvis.com. Home users can enjoy the full line of AKVIS plugins in the AKVIS Alchemy bundle (Sketch, Chameleon, Stamp, Retoucher, Coloriage, Noise Buster, Decorator, Enhancer, LightShop, SmartMask and ArtSuite ) for USD $325 USD, a savings of $513 over purchasing each separately. For business licenses consult the official web-site. One license key allows activating the software on two computers, for example, on a desktop and a laptop.

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