



TUTORIAL CHEAT SHEET // UNDERWATER SETTING

KEY LESSONS

- How to use the Loish Water brush pack to paint an underwater setting
- How to **start simple** and gradually work your way to sharper detail
- How to warp a flat image to create the effect of **caustic lighting**

RELATED VIDEOS

These are Patreon tutorials that cover similar topics.

> UNDERWATER LIGHTING | 25 MINUTES

This is a video where I discuss my creation process for an underwater setting in Photoshop, using a really similar workflow to this tutorial!

> RENDERING WATER | 43 MINUTES

This is a tutorial on how you can paint a water surface with minimal tools - so just a hard round brush and some basic digital tools that you'll find in any software!

> WATER SURFACES | 21 MINUTES

In this video, I talk about the specific challenges around painting a water surface, and run you through my process of painting some detailed splash studies.

TOOLS & RESOURCES

These are tools I used during this video.

> **PAD PRO & APPLE PENCIL, PROCREATE**

This is the software and hardware I used.

> **LOISH'S FREE BRUSH SET**

This is included in the Loish's Digital Art School pack!

> **LOISH WATER PACK**

This is a special brush set just for painting water.

TECHNIQUES

> **START WITH SOFT GRADIENTS**

Don't jump straight into the detail. Instead, start with soft gradations to capture the sense of depth. Details can always be layered on top!

> **ADD DETAIL ON A NEW LAYER EACH TIME**

Every time you add new details, put it on a separate layer. That way, you can tweak the colors and make adjustments to it before you commit.

> **USE FILTERS**

Motion blur, Gaussian blur, and Chromatic aberration are super helpful for underwater settings!

TIPS

- Don't copy your reference exactly. Instead, try to capture the **energy and movement**.
- **Make a backup** before you merge your layers by duplicating the file. That way, you can always go back if it's not working out!

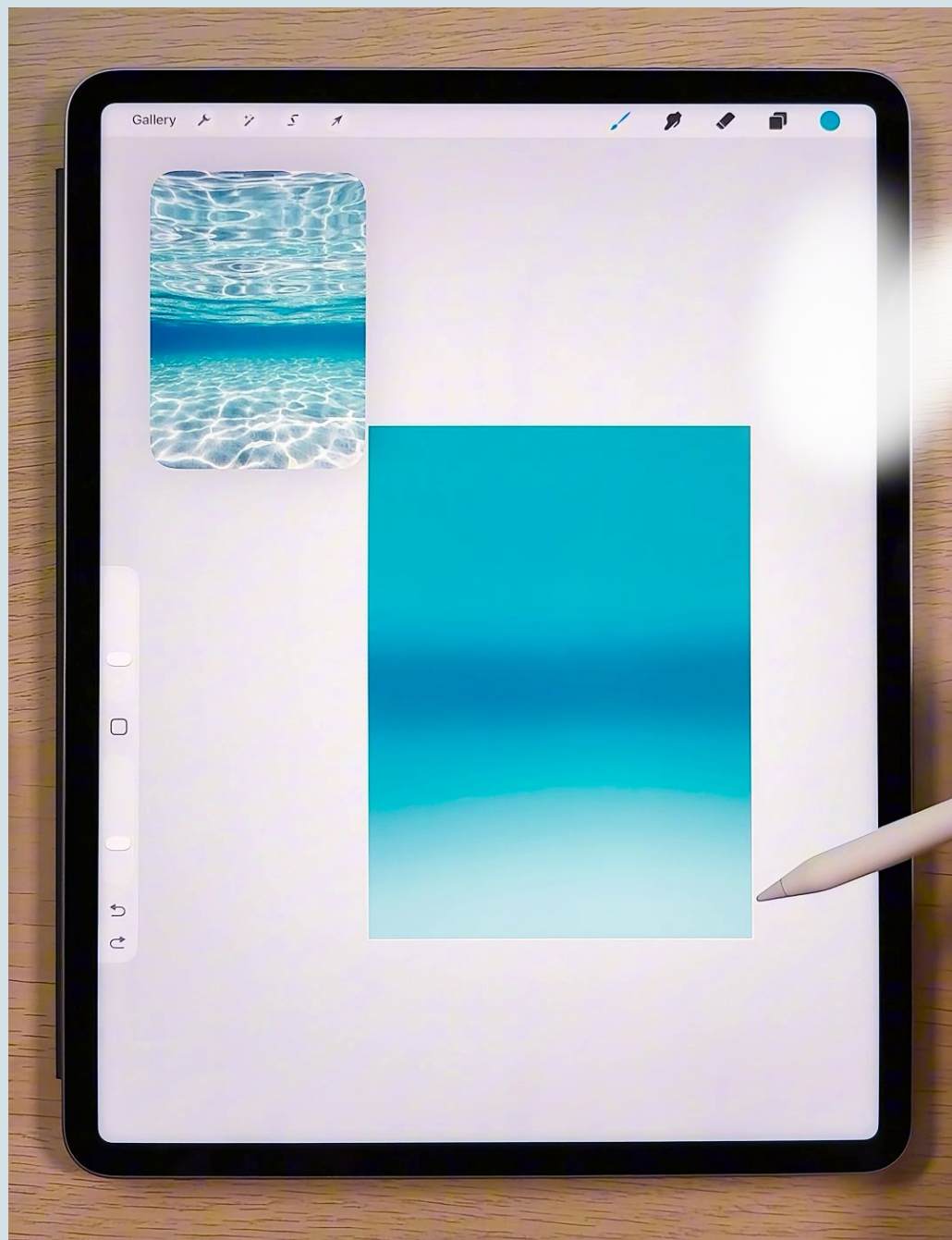
REFERENCE



STEPS

01 // GRADIENTS

Build up a series of gradients using a soft brush and blur filters.

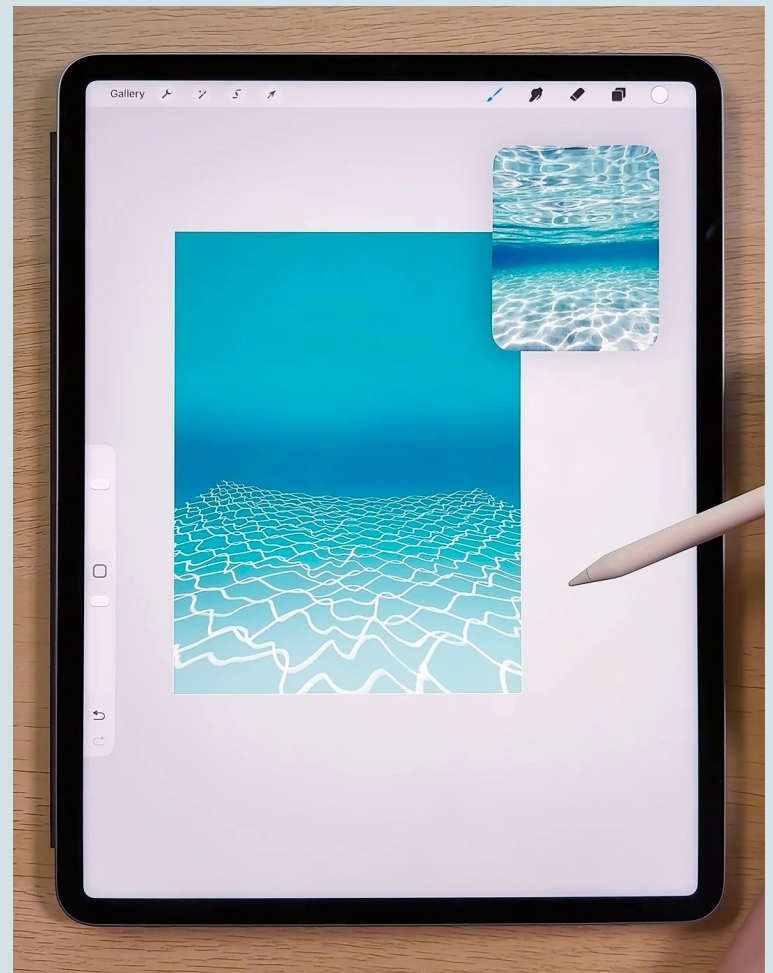
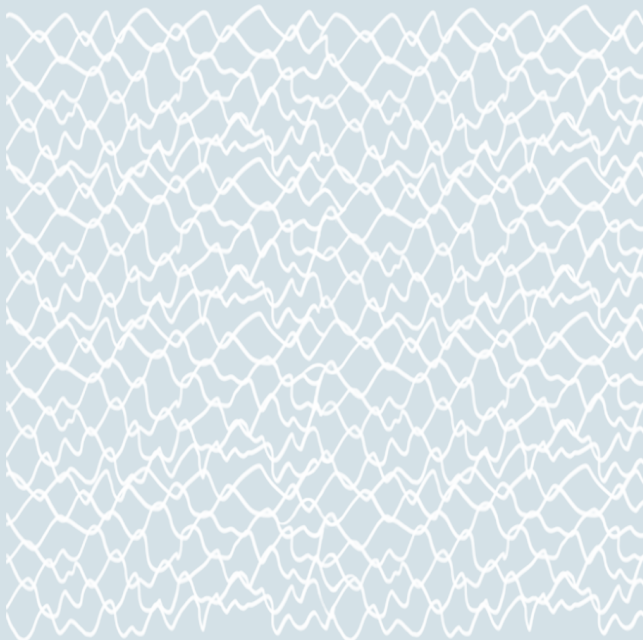
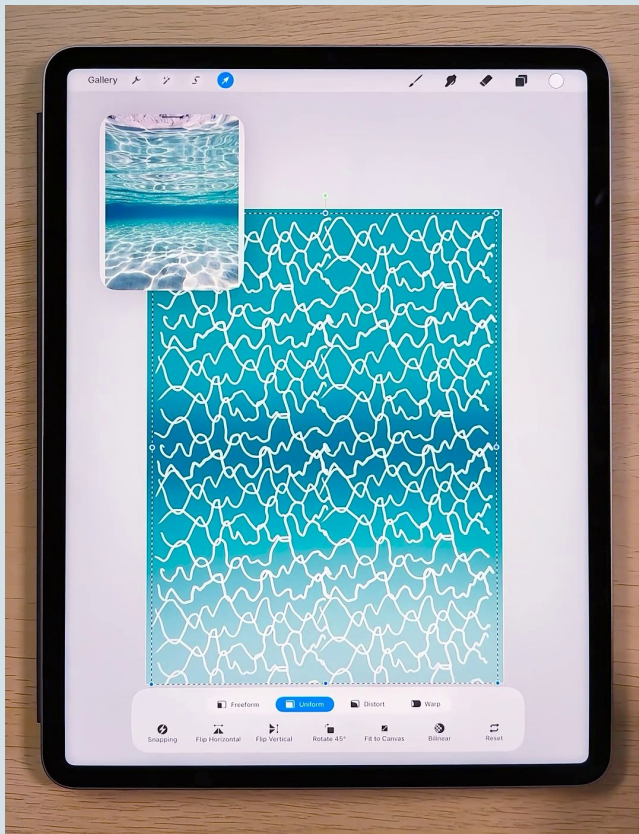


The gentle gradient brush is ideal for this!

STEPS

02 // DRAW THE CAUSTIC LIGHTING

Draw some squiggly overlapping W-shaped lines over your canvas, or use the caustic stamp brush. Transform it to fit into the perspective of your image, and erase the edges to blend it in.

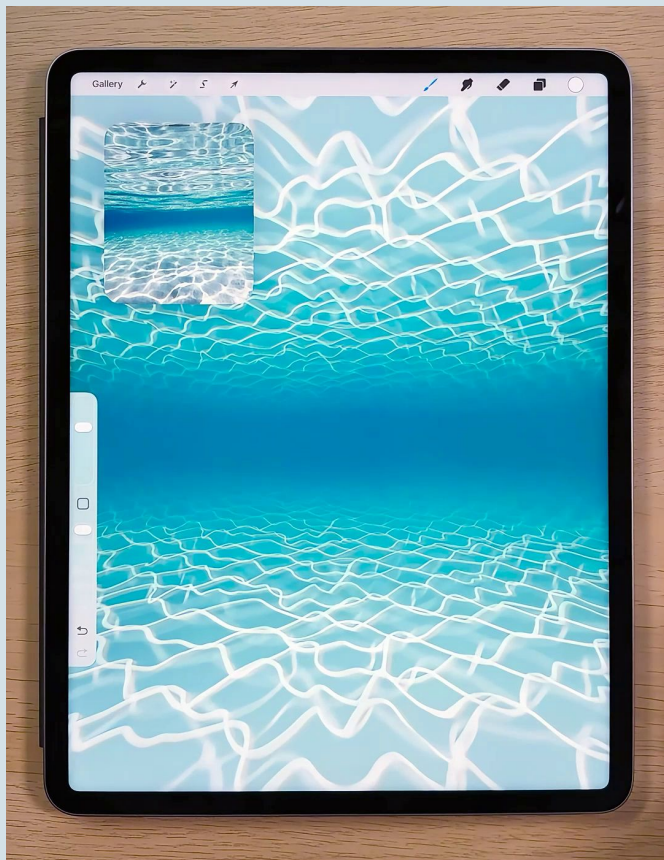


Just use the stamp from the brush set if you don't feel like drawing all the lines.

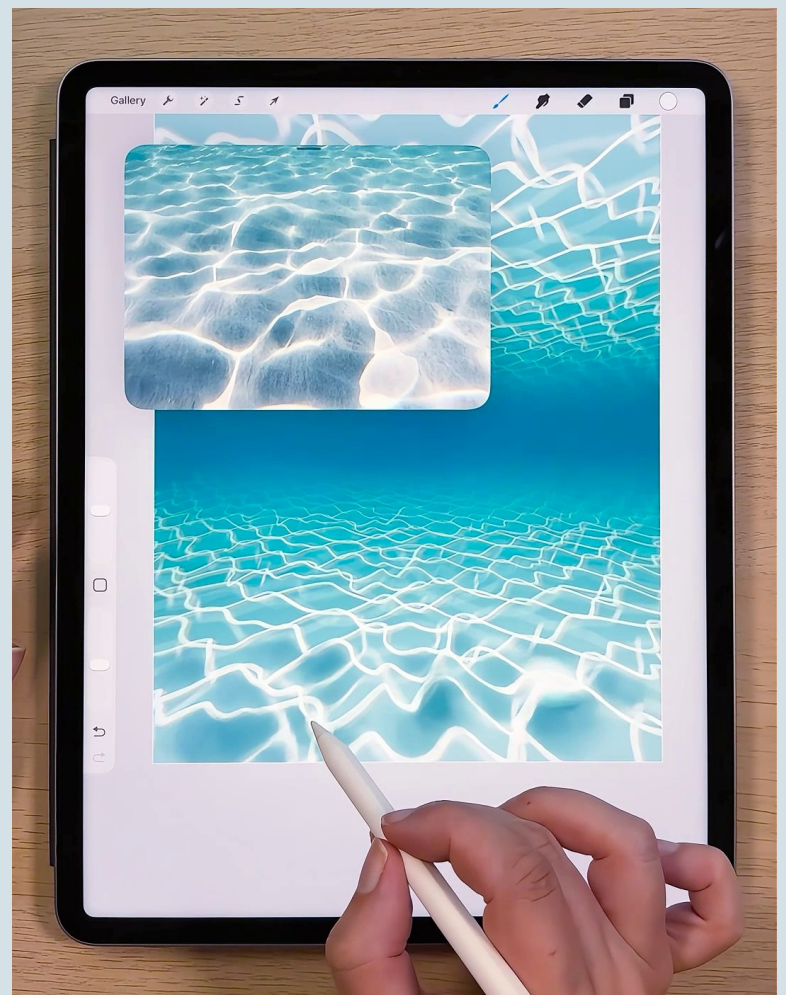
STEPS

03 // INTEGRATE THE CAUSTICS

- Duplicate the caustics, blur them, and move them to the side to add a **second layer of caustic lights**.
- Play around with layer modes to create a colorful, shimmery effect.
- Duplicate your caustic light layer, flip it vertically, and move it to the top of your image for the surface reflection.
- Finally, paint over the foreground areas for a more hand-painted feel!



Paint some darker areas between the shapes, and also some lighter shimmers where the caustic lights meet.

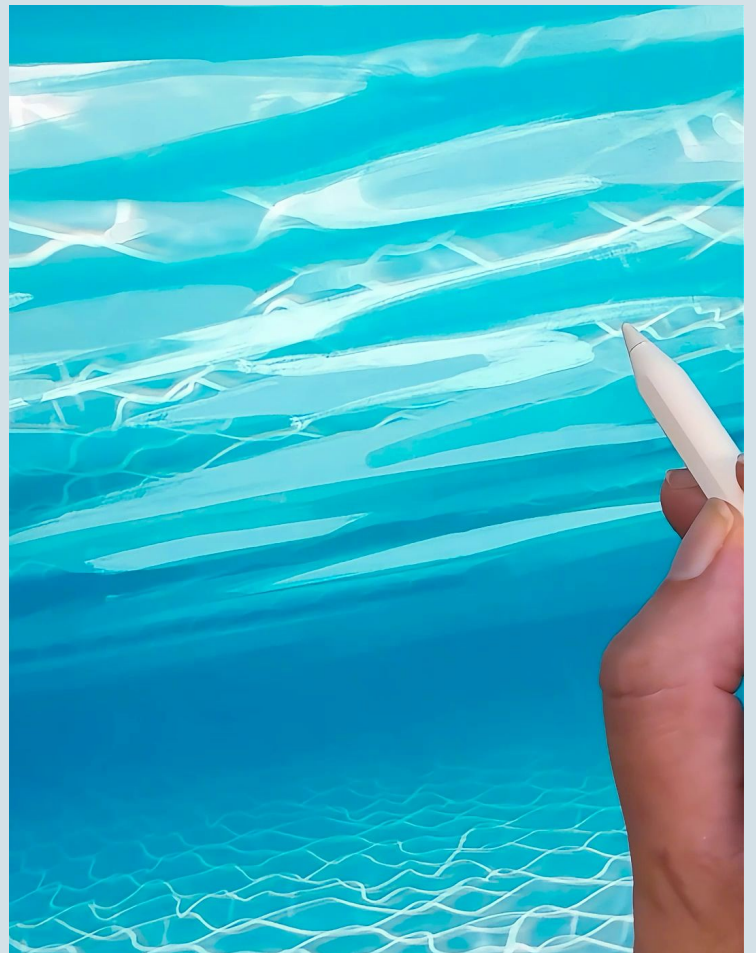


STEPS

04 // PAINTING THE SURFACE

- Use the lasso tool to paint some of the wavy shapes on the surface.
- Paint on top to add more definition. You can use the reflection smudge tool to further distort the ripples and details.
- Use motion blur to give these details a sense of movement.

the selection tool is ideal for painting dynamic, swooping shapes.



STEPS

05 // FINISHING TOUCHES

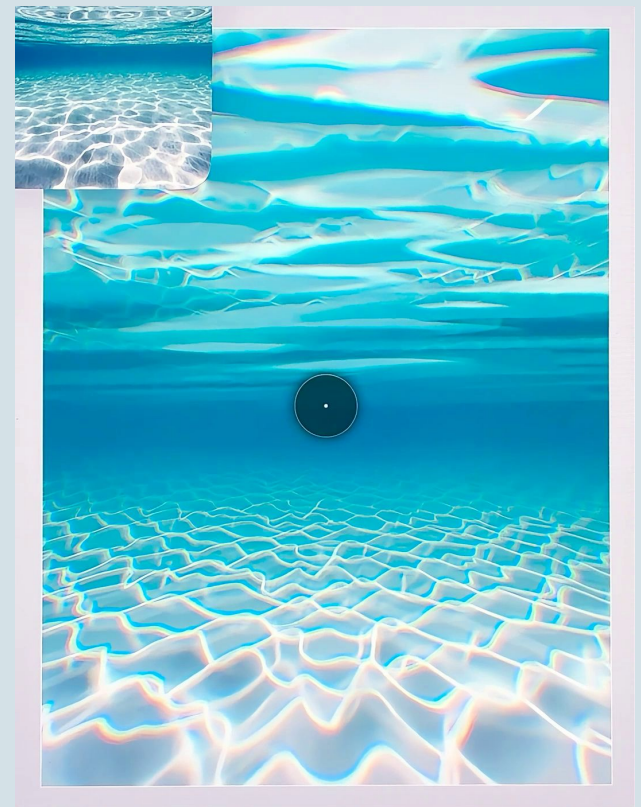
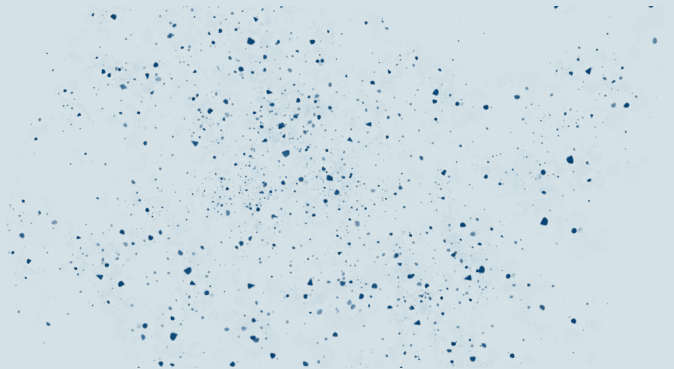
- Use the chromatic aberration filter on the flattened version of your painting.
- Add some floating specks to the water.



Chromatic aberration creates a rainbow effect.



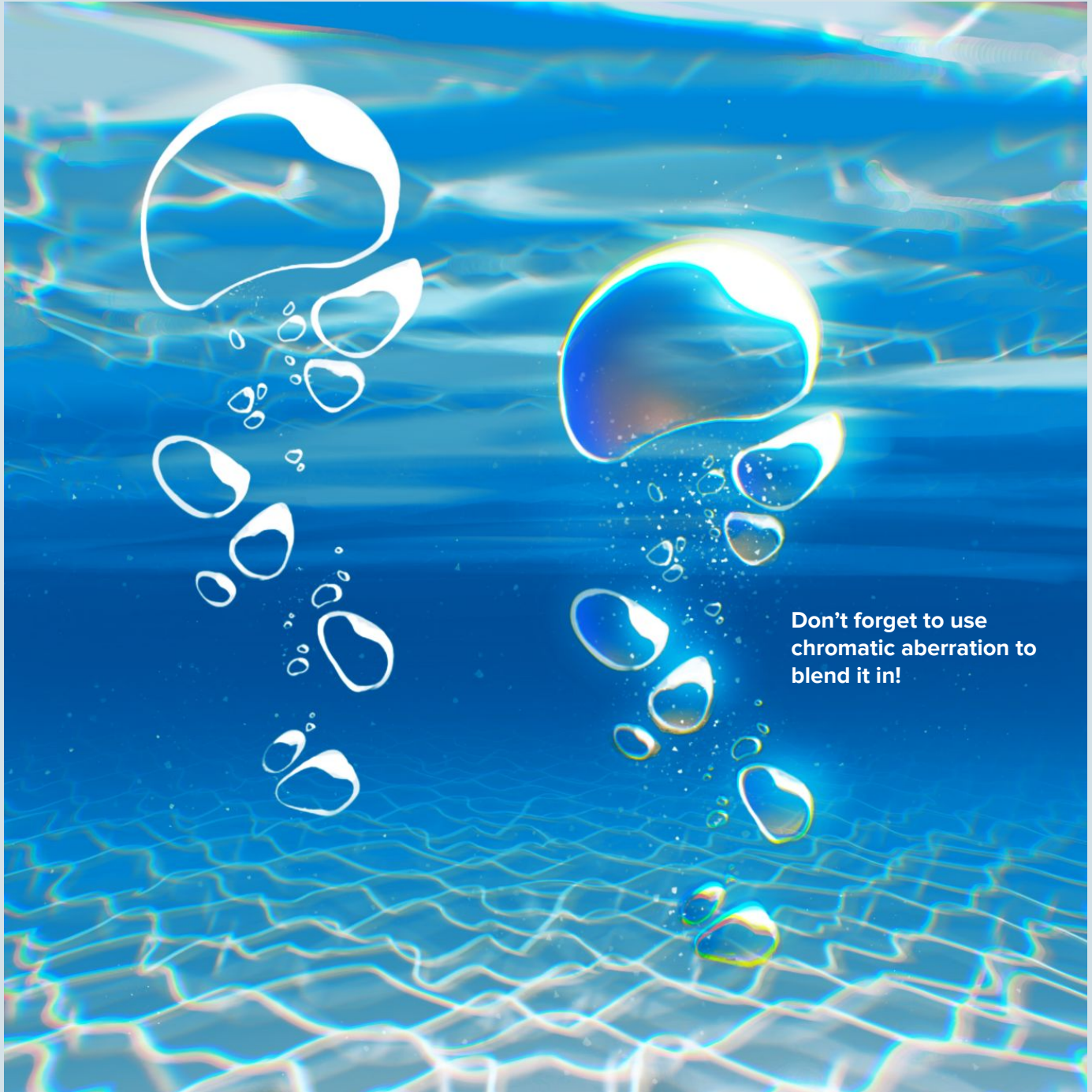
Use the **floating specks brush** for this!



STEPS

BONUS // ADD BUBBLES

Use the bubble stamp brush to create a starting point. Add some colors to the inside of the bubbles to show how it refracts light.



**FINAL
RESULT**



Loish's

• DIGITAL ART •

School

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING THIS PACK!

If you like tutorials like these, you can find many more over on Patreon!
There are over 70 of them. They include:

> IN-DEPTH NARRATED VIDEOS

The videos range from 35-50 minutes long, and each one takes a deep dive into the subject, including tips and advice. Each video comes with subtitles as well.

> DETAILED CHEAT SHEET

Get a PDF file that contains an overview of the information from the video, including timecodes, tips, recap of the techniques, and links to related tutorials.

> A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS

The tutorials are about construction, workflow, traditional art, and even topics like mental health, artistic routine, and posting your artwork to social media. There's something for everyone!

Join us!

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