



SketchCop® Academy

Helpful Tips on Becoming a Forensic Artist



Forensic artists have made the difference in countless cases during the last century. Forensic art is a specialized area of forensic science that is becoming heavily influenced by technology.

Although the discipline is changing rapidly, there are several hints listed below that should be helpful for those who hoping to enter the field.

- ☑ Your best opportunity to become a forensic artist is to be employed by a law enforcement agency. Your rank or position doesn't matter, only that you are a member in 'good standing'.
- ☑ Freelancers should strive to develop relationships with investigators from their local law enforcement agency.
- ☑ In either instance, find a mentor that is established in the field to help you develop your skills.
- ☑ Strong artistic skills only matter if you are a traditional forensic artist. Not so much if you choose facial composite software
- ☑ If you use a software-driven approach to creating facial composites, know the program's capabilities and limitations.
- ☑ To be successful in either method requires that you possess strong communication skills.
- ☑ Especially...good listening skills.
- ☑ Developing a facial composite is about providing support to the investigation and psychological first aid to the victim. It's not about how 'good' an artist you are.
- ☑ Take pride in your work and the positive contribution you are making to society.
- ☑ Last, but not least, practice, practice, practice!

To sharpen your skills, it's important that you practice. Like many professions, there're no shortcuts. Your professional growth and development will only come with hard work. Equally important is continuing education. Please consult our course list to find additional training opportunities.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a forensic artist, it's recommended that you read the book, ***Creating Digital Faces for Law Enforcement*** (Elsevier/Academic Press 2017) The first chapter includes information on how to become a forensic artist.

If you still want to become a forensic artist, or you're just curious about how forensic artists work, we encourage you to participate in some of our upcoming course offerings, even if it's just for fun.