

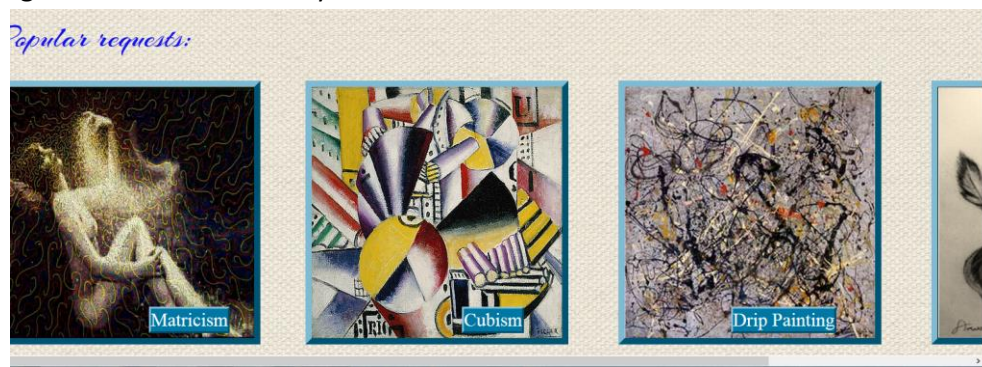
HW2 : Heuristic Evaluation of ArtUP

I have listed below my findings in my heuristic evaluation of the website ArtUP. I have tried to supply recommendations where possible.

1. **Comment:** Layout of search bar between main page and search page.

Heuristic: Learnability – I initially thought there was no content underneath search bar due to its placement just below a large image of your mascot. I only noticed I could scroll down to view common searches and options on your main page by chance. Schneiderman's consistency heuristic between the main page and search page also violated.

Image: This content is initially hidden and must be scrolled to view:



Severity: Major

Recommendation: Place search bar at the top of the screen, or scale down the dog mascot image to make all content initially visible.

2. **Comment:** Typography of print on Technique page is difficult to read.

Heuristic: Efficiency- It might be difficult for the viewer of the webpage to read all the text due to the readability of the text paragraphs.

Image:

Description

Among the works created by Leonardo in the 16th century is the small portrait known as the Mona Lisa or "la Gioconda", the laughing one. In the present era it is arguably the most famous painting in the world. Its fame rests, in particular, on the elusive smile on the woman's face, its mysterious quality brought about perhaps by the fact that the artist has subtly shadowed the corners of the mouth and eyes so that the exact nature of the smile cannot be determined. The shadowy quality for which the work is renowned came to be called "sfumato" or Leonardo's smoke. Vasari, who is generally thought to have known the painting only by repute, said that "the smile was so pleasing that it seemed divine rather than human; and those who saw it were amazed to find that it was as alive as the original".

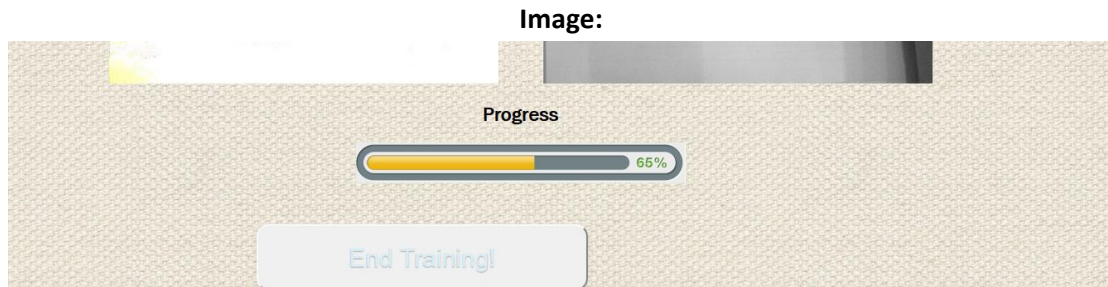
Other characteristics found in this work are the unadorned dress, in which the eyes and hands have no competition from other details, the dramatic landscape background in which the world seems to be in a state of flux, the subdued colouring and the extremely smooth nature of the painterly technique, employing oils, but laid on much like tempera and blended on the surface so that the brushstrokes are indistinguishable. Vasari expressed the opinion that the manner of painting would make even "the most confident master ... despair and lose heart." The perfect state of preservation and the fact that there is no sign of repair or overpainting is rare in a panel painting of this date.

Severity: Minor

Recommendation: Consider using white space margins to separate paragraph texts alongside art viewed. Text Indentation could help as well as centering the Heading Description.

3. **Comment:** Button for “End Training” on the feedback page is not consistent with horizontal alignment of the rest of the page

Heuristic: Graphic Design/Layout- This comment is cosmetic to the page; however the user has to scroll down to see the button which you might consider a learnability issue if they do not know of the button’s existence.



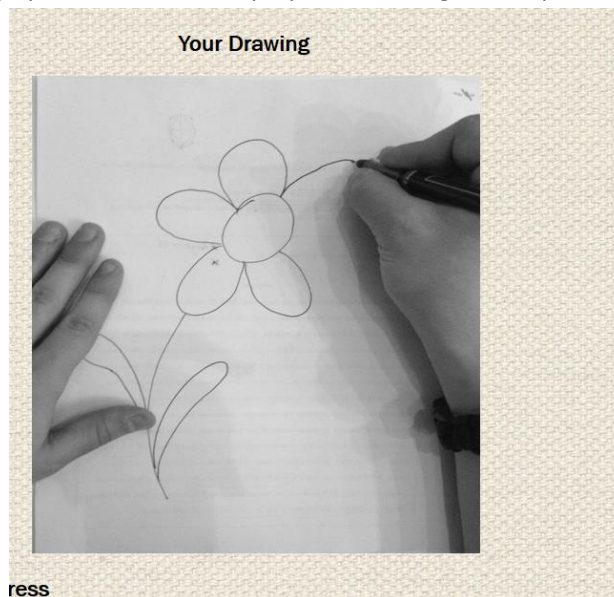
Severity: Cosmetic

Recommendation: Horizontally center-align the button consistent with the rest of the page content. Reposition button to within view while the training is taking place so the user knows he can stop the training in progress.

4. **Comment:** There are no affordances for erasing marks that are unintentional.

Heuristic: Safety- There is no immediate affordance or message shown on the feedback page to show whether you are in a drawing mode or erase mode (if that is even possible, I am unsure from the page as shown).

Image: Picture editing options could be displayed on the right or top:



Severity: Major

Recommendation: I saw that your group had incorporated erasing from GR3 but I do not see its appearance in GR4 prototype. I think you should consider bringing the mode back to your prototype.

5. **Comment:** Feedback page is incorrectly labeled “Profile Page” in its description header and “Drawing Page” in the url.

Heuristic: Learnability – User might have trouble navigating the site because of incorrect labels to let him know where in the process he is.

Image:



Severity: Minor

Recommendation: Determine the correct nomenclature for your web mapping and call the pages by correct naming.

6. **Comment:** No way to return to your profile or search once on the technique page.

Heuristic: Safety- There is no way to return the search page or level page

Image: No picture to display since no return option available.

Severity: Minor (Can be overcome with back button)

Recommendation: Provide an escape button to allow the user to return to search page instead of having to advance to the drawing or level selection.

7. **Comment:** Structure and navigation from one page of your site to another is unclear.

Heuristic: Learnability/Safety/Efficiency – I do not know the order that I am to proceed from the main page to drawing or back anywhere in between. Without a roadmap, I feel it hits aspects of learnability, safety and efficiency.

Image: No picture to display since no navigation bar or layout is available.

Severity: Catastrophic

Recommendation: Please consider using a navigation bar to show the overall process of your website application.

8. **Comment:** Language and terminology used on all pages is confusing.

Heuristic: Learnability – I do not understand why “Mona Lisa” is a technique or the paintings shown on the profile are techniques as well. I am also unsure what effects “levels” have on techniques (Does it mean the pen is fatter, or the passing rate requirement goes up). Is the profile page the same as personal page shown on the results page?

Image: Inconsistent labels:



Severity: Major

Recommendation: Please consider a help page for your terms for some self-disclosure of your data model.

9. **Comment:** The use of blue font color against your background was a good choice. (Main Page and Results Page).

Heuristic: Graphics Design/Color- The blue font is highly readable on the gray weaved background and also allows the headings to stand out in addition to the white space used around each heading.

Image:



Severity: None Required (Good)

Recommendation: Please consider using the same font color in your other pages as well.

10. **Comment:** Other parameters of interest related to the painting not shown on results page.

Heuristic: Efficiency – I have to leave the page to know what level I was working on and what technique I used. Other parameters of interest that might want to be displayed are the progress if session ended early or the total time it took to draw.

Image: More information on success would be nice.



Severity: Minor

Recommendation: Please make a list of all the things you might consider a useful statistic to show the user from your GR1 assignment to add to the results page.

11. **Comment:** No affordance offered to share your result on the results page.

Heuristic: Efficiency – The user probably would want to post his results to Facebook on the results page instead of having to return to the profile page (personal page?) to post.

Image: An option to post here would be nice:



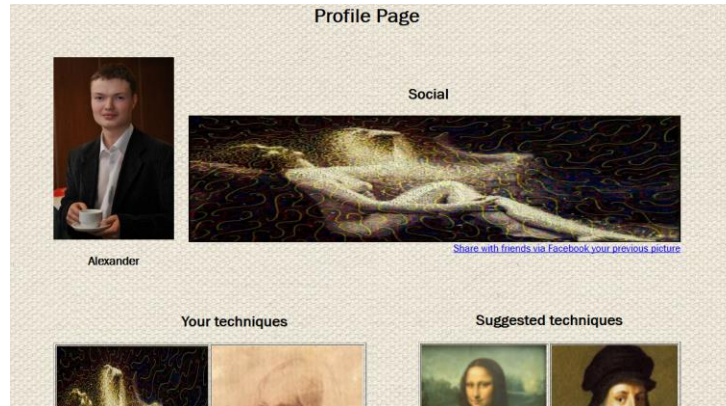
Severity: Minor

Recommendation: Provide a button on the results page to share the success of completing a lesson on Facebook.

12. **Comment:** No affordances are shown on the profile page for personal editing.

Heuristic: Learnability- There are no links or options shown on the profile page to show how edits can be made to the page. No user control is granted on page that should be customizable to the user as the profile page.

Image: No ability to change anything on this page:



Severity: Major

Recommendation: Give the user more control in the profile page by giving him the options to sort his “techniques” according to his favorites and the ability to change your personal photo

13. **Comment:** Pictures on the bottom of the technique page do not clearly identify their purpose to the selected technique.

Heuristic: Learnability- The user currently cannot tell whether these pictures are similar techniques, by the same artist, or are in the same category.

Image: Unsure how these images are related to the selection:



Severity: Low

Recommendation: A heading to show whether the picture on the bottom are selectable or links to other techniques and what the relation to the selected technique is.

14. **Comment:** Level selection page shows icons of more techniques instead of what choosing level accomplishes.

Heuristic: Learnability- At this point the user has already selected a technique. By displaying the levels as portraits, it is unclear as to what choosing levels actually do for the user.

Image: More techniques or level selection? :



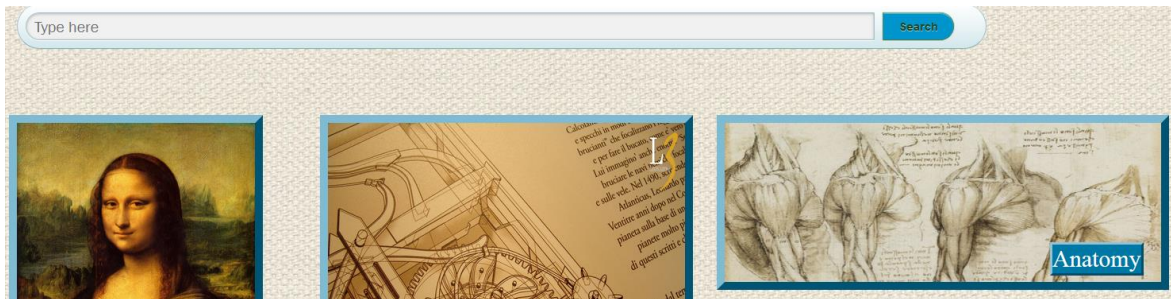
Severity:

Recommendation: Tooltip over each level heading to display what changes are made to the project.

15. **Comment:** No affordance to sort search results or display title headings for important headings on search results.

Heuristic: Efficiency – User has to sort through all the search results to find their desired technique and has to click on the technique to find out what its name and original artist are.

Image: No option to sort items and no headings beyond category are shown:



Severity: Major (I understand from the GR4 that technique search is not implemented but no affordances are shown on the search page to show these would be offered or planned for in the next implementation.)

Recommendation: Recommend adding title headings on the paintings that show pertinent information such as the Artist and Title, as well as a sort button for sorting large results like by artist for instance or time period.