

Procreate®

Intermediate Series

Masks



Intermediate Series

Welcome to the Intermediate Series for Procreate,
the limitless creative tool for iPad.

This guide will introduce you to Masks, one
of the fundamental advantages of digital art.

In this guide

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3 Alpha lock

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Part One Introduction to masks



Masks



The power of masks

Masks are like a non-destructive eraser tool, but with added flexibility.
Rather than permanently deleting things, you choose what to hide or reveal.

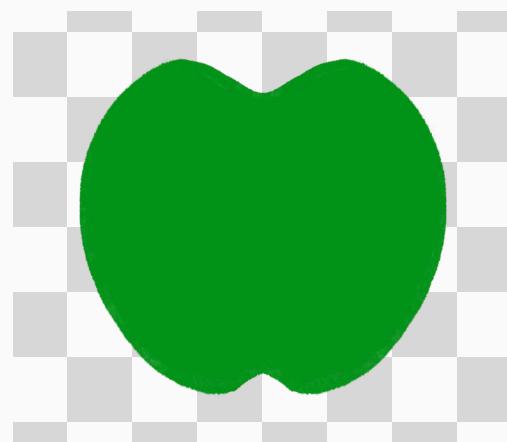
Procreate has three types of masks: Alpha Lock, Clipping Masks and Layer Masks.

Part Two

Alpha Lock

4.

Alpha Lock



Alpha Lock layer

+



Paint

=



Result

How Alpha Lock works

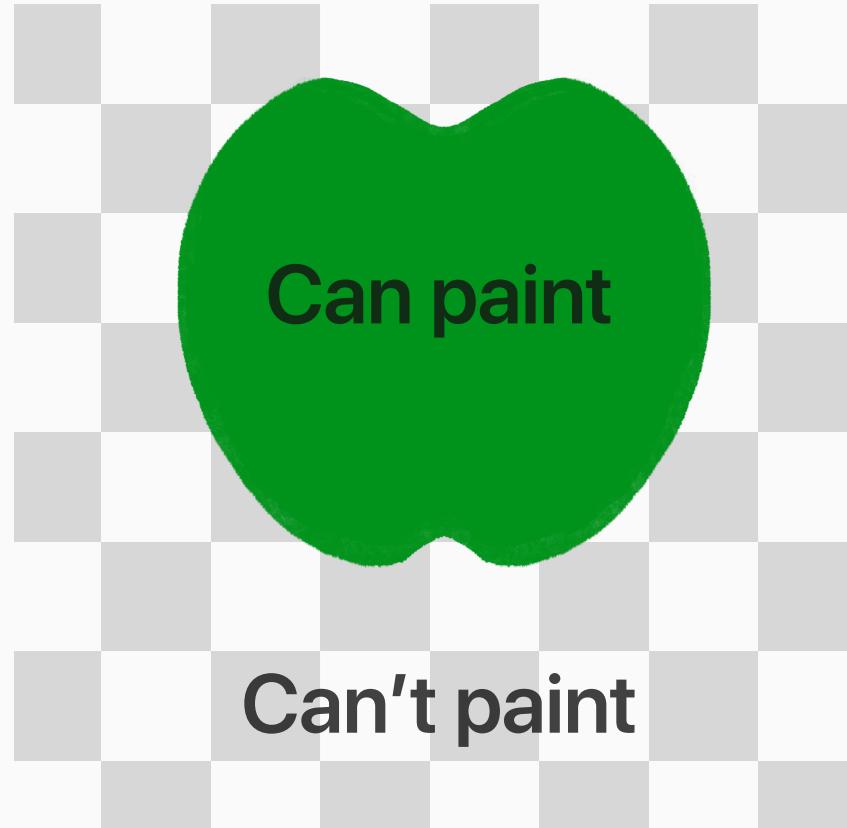
When you activate Alpha Lock on a layer, your new paint will only adhere to previously painted areas.

PAINTED PIXELS

You can only paint on previously painted pixels

TRANSPARENT PIXELS

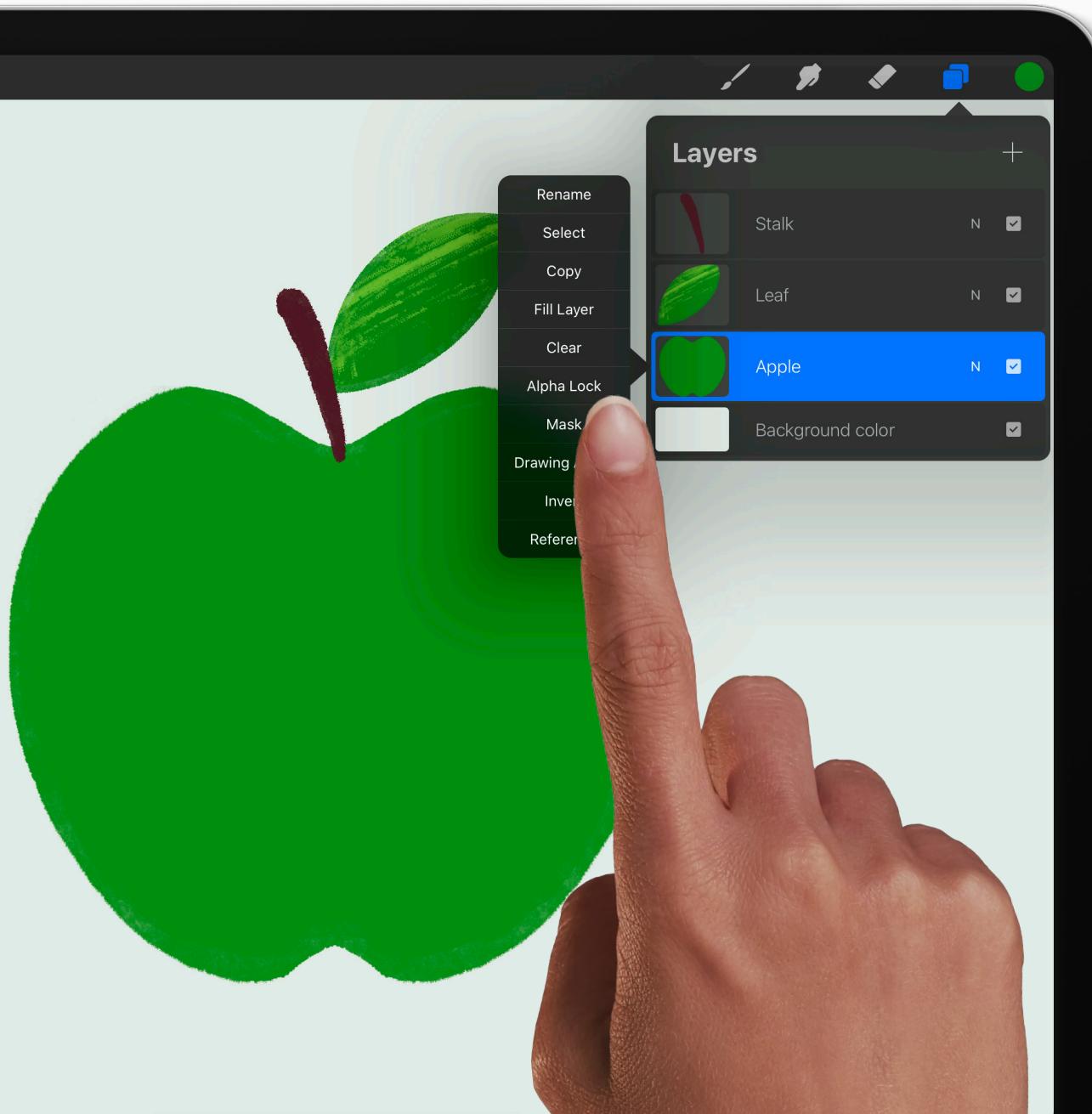
Any unpainted areas are locked, and will remain transparent.



6.

Apply Alpha Lock

Tap the layer you wish to apply alpha lock to, then tap *Alpha Lock*.





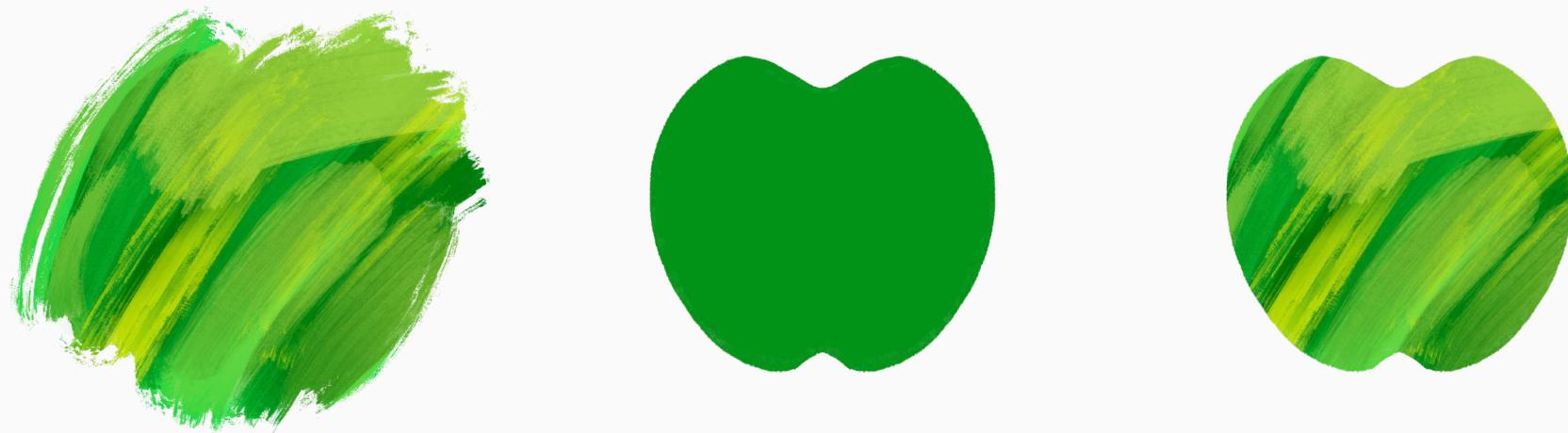
Paint in the texture

Now you have *Alpha Lock*, your paint strokes will remain within the bounds of the painted pixels.

Part Three

Clipping Masks

Clipping Masks



Clipping Mask

+

Layer

=

Result

How clipping masks work

The paint on the layer below a clipping mask will determine which parts will show.

Think of it like a window that any layer attached to the clipping mask will show through.

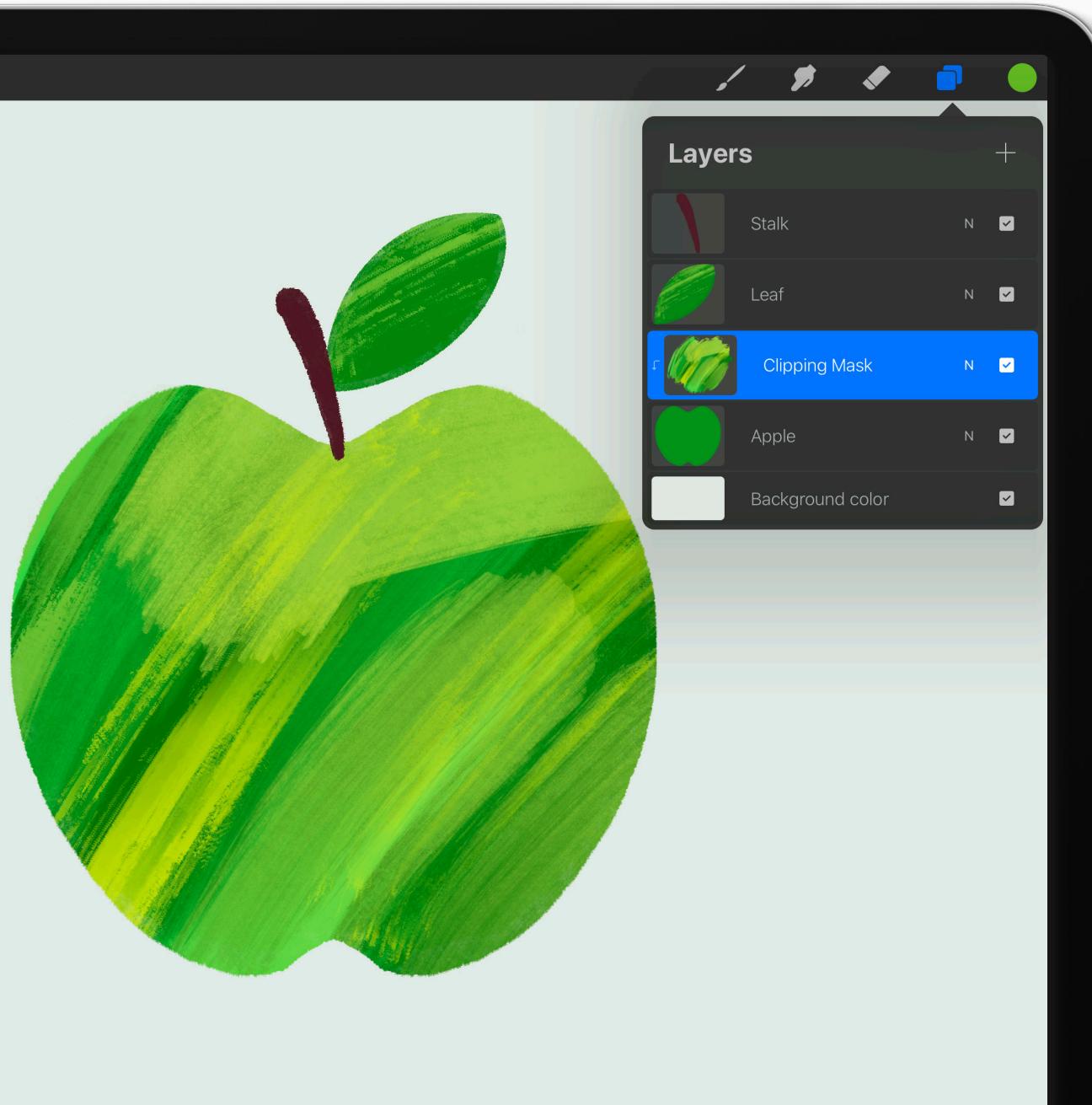
PAINTED PIXELS

You can only paint on previously painted pixels

TRANSPARENT PIXELS

Any unpainted areas are locked, and will remain transparent.





Clip to the layer below

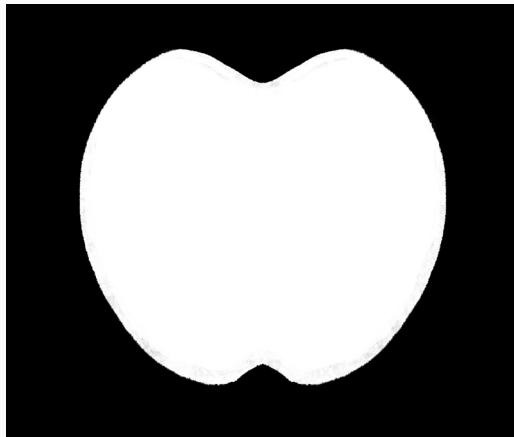
Clip your art onto the shape the pixels make on the layer underneath.

Notice the shading now adheres to the clean painted pixels of the layer below.

Part Four Layer Masks



Layer Masks



Layer Mask

+



Layer

=

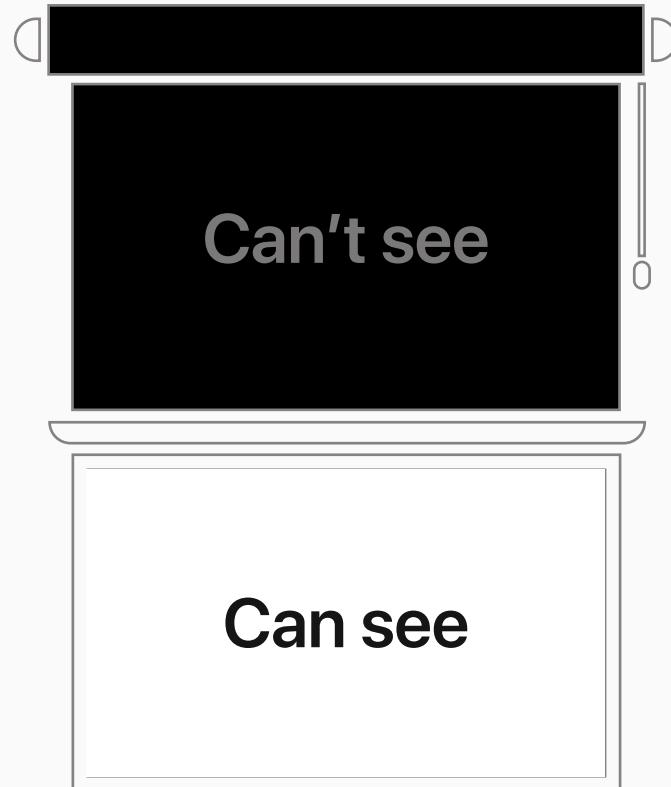


Result

How layer masks work

Whether parts of the layer mask are painted black or white, will reveal different parts of the layer.

A simple way to remember which color is which, is to think of a window.



BLACK = BLINDS

Any black areas of the layer mask will be hidden.

WHITE = WINDOWS

Any white areas of the layer mask will reveal the artwork underneath.



Apply a layer mask

Tap the layer you wish to apply a layer mask to, then tap *Mask*.



Reveal the layer

Remember the white and black rules, using white paint to reveal areas of your layer.

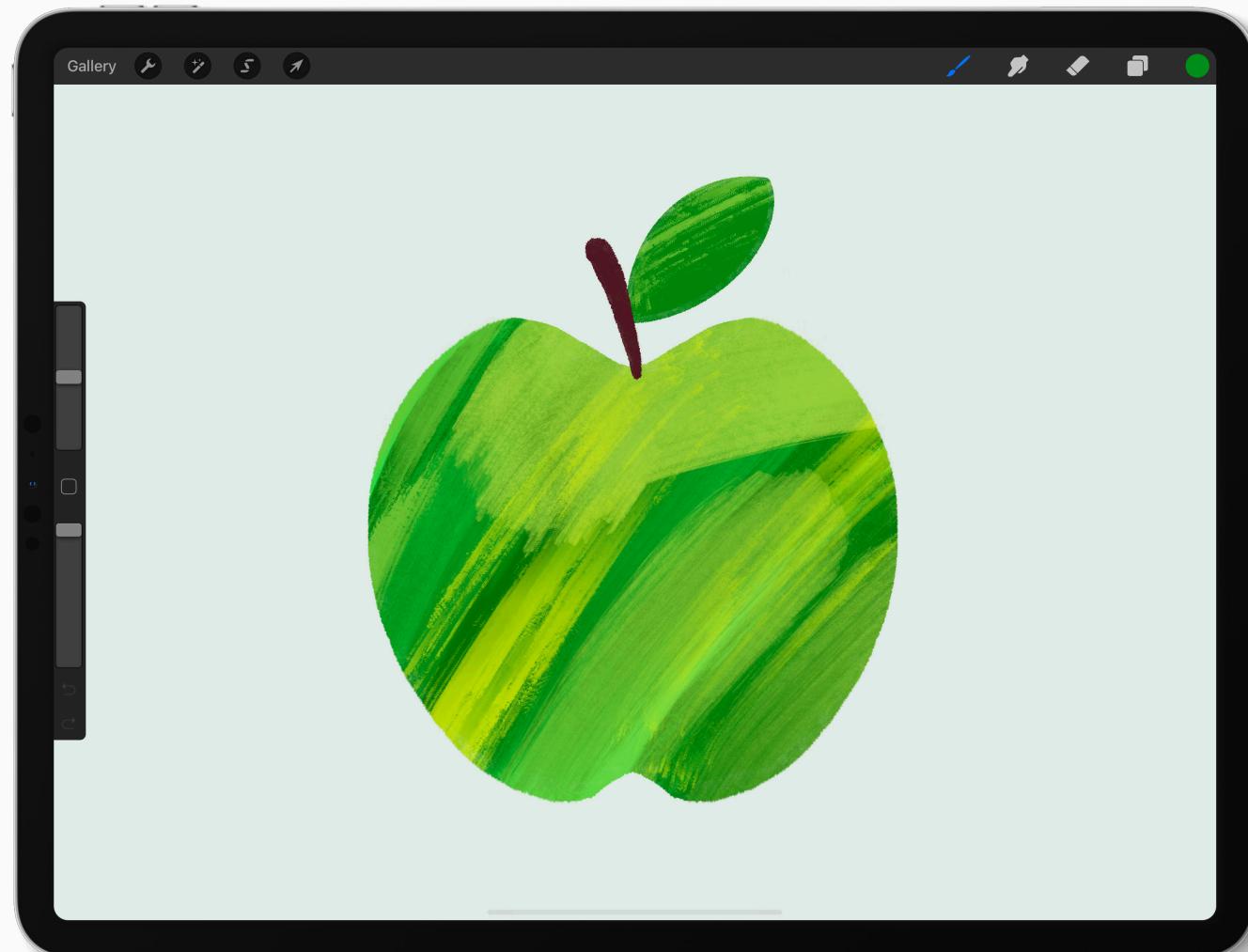
Part Five

Using

Masks

Bite the Apple

How can you use masks to bite the apple?



With a clipping mask

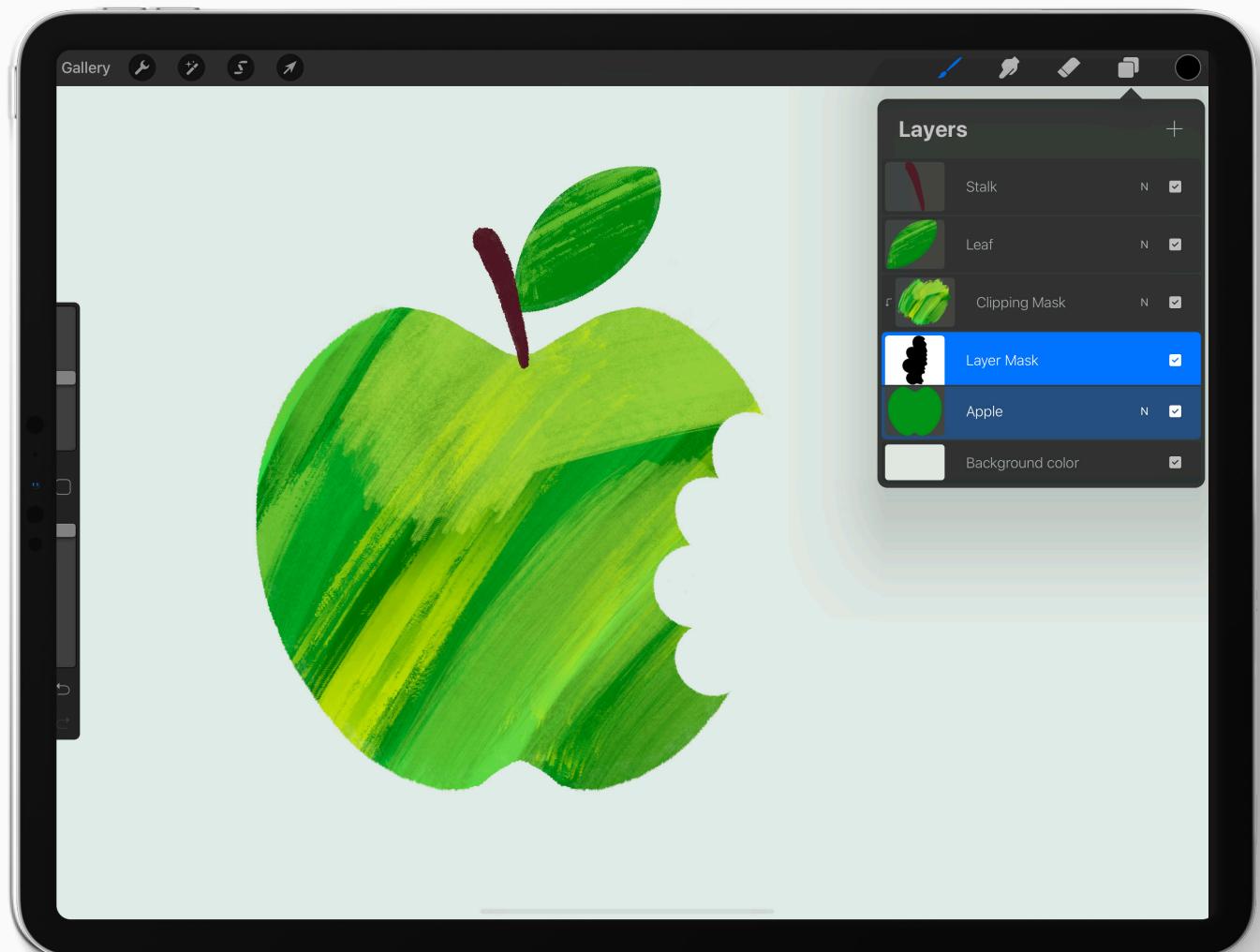
As clipping masks clip on to the pixels of the layer below, erasing a bite mark in the layer below will also hide that part of the clipping mask.



With a layer mask

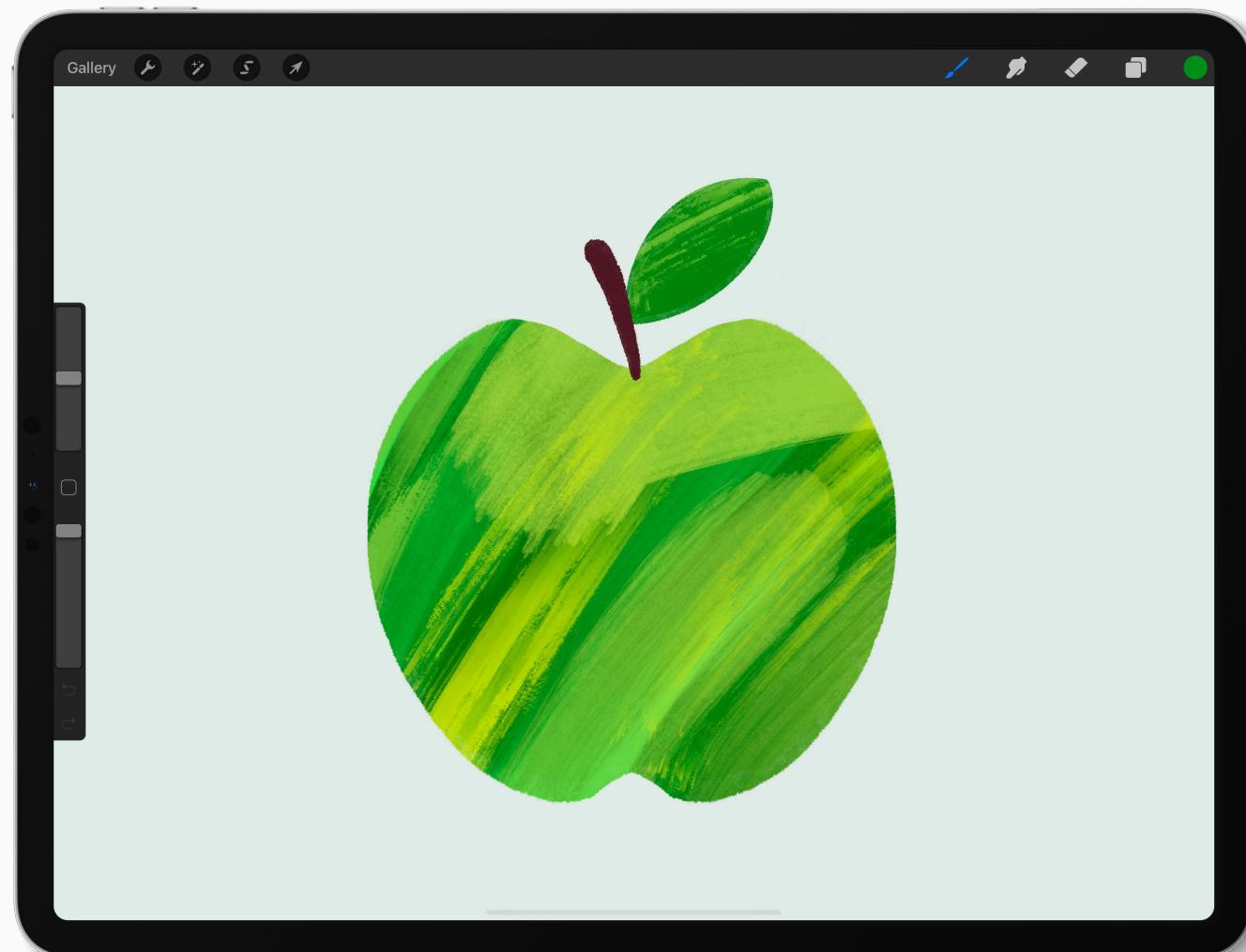
Remembering the black and white rules when using layer masks,
simply draw the bite mark in black.

Notice how the clipping mask
layer above is also hidden by
the layer mask effect.



Unbite the Apple

How do you create a non-destructive workflow?



With a clipping mask

Erasing the bite mark on the layer below a clipping mask is hard to reverse.

One way to preserve your work is to duplicate and hide the apple layer before you erase.



With a layer mask

Using a Layer Mask in this example means you can easily remove the bite by deleting the mask.

As you become familiar with masks, the easier it will be to work in a way that won't permanently destroy any progress.



Create

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To dive deeper into the full creative potential of Procreate, see our Handbook at procreate.art/handbook



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