Shape your Solar System

DESIGN **SCIENCE**

Learn with
Procreate®

Lesson ideas

Use these Lesson Ideas to spark
your imagination for using Procreate
in the classroom.

Feel free to take them further
and make them your own.

Shape your Solar System

Create galactic art

Procreate has a range of digital art features that make it easy and fun to create beautiful Solar System art.

All you need is an iPad and:

 Procreate

 Safari

Be inspired

The universe is beautiful

In this lesson we will take inspiration from the universe, and curiously observe why planets look the way they do.

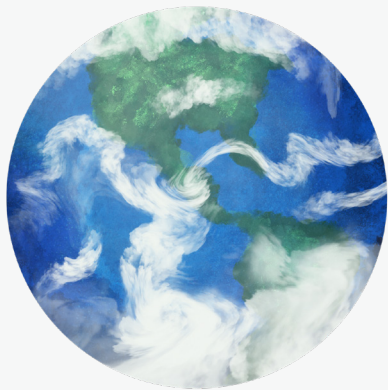Jupiter taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope on June 27, 2019

Learn about layers

A digital art tool

This lesson takes advantage of layers.

Digital art uses stacked layers. This gives you the power to paint, erase, edit and rearrange layers individually, without ruining what you have already done.

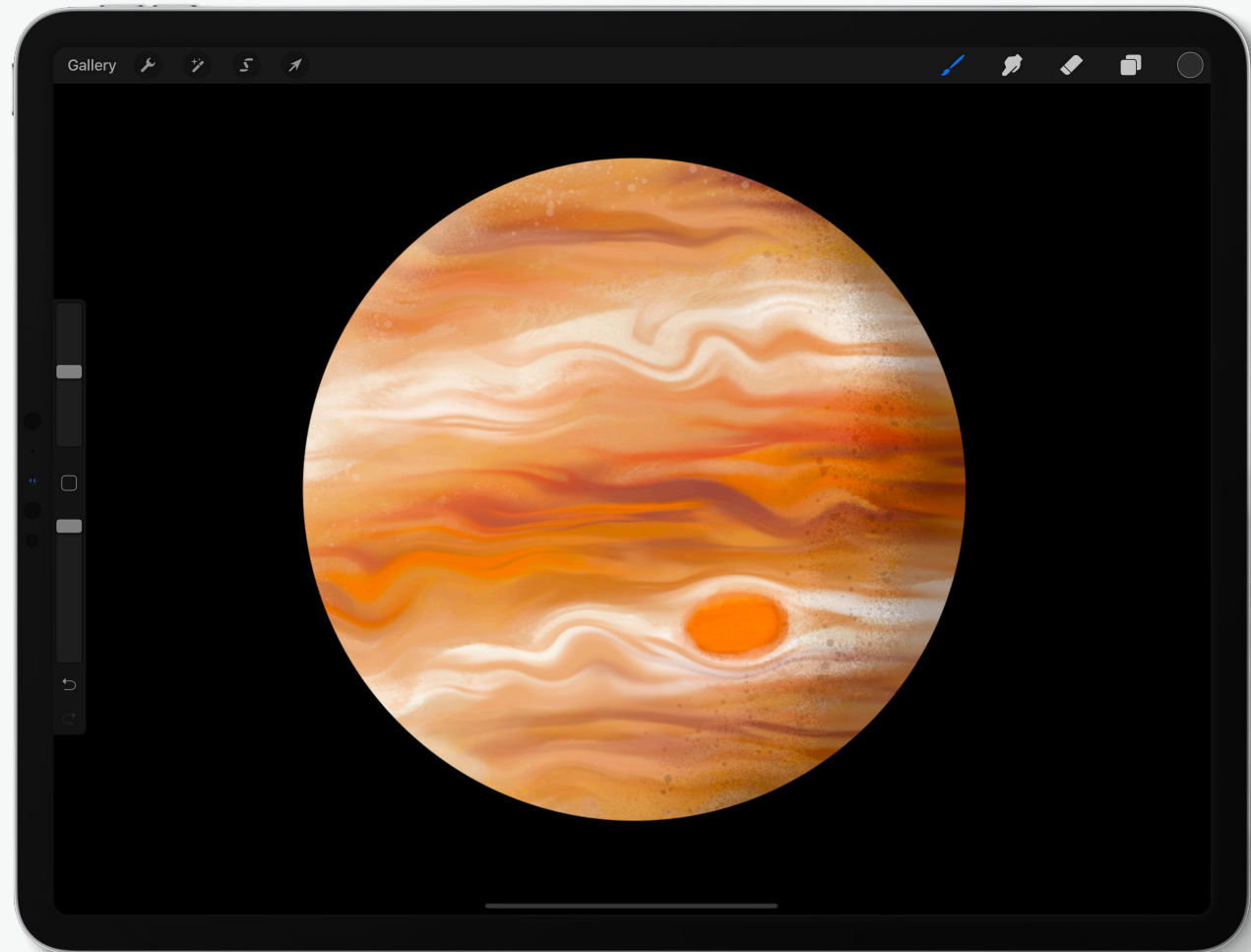For more tips on layers, see our Beginners Guides at education.procreate.art.

Getting started

Pick a planet

Use the *Safari* app to explore
the planets of the Solar System.
Collect some images that you like.
We will use Jupiter in this example.

Create a canvas

Open the Procreate app
and select the + in the top right
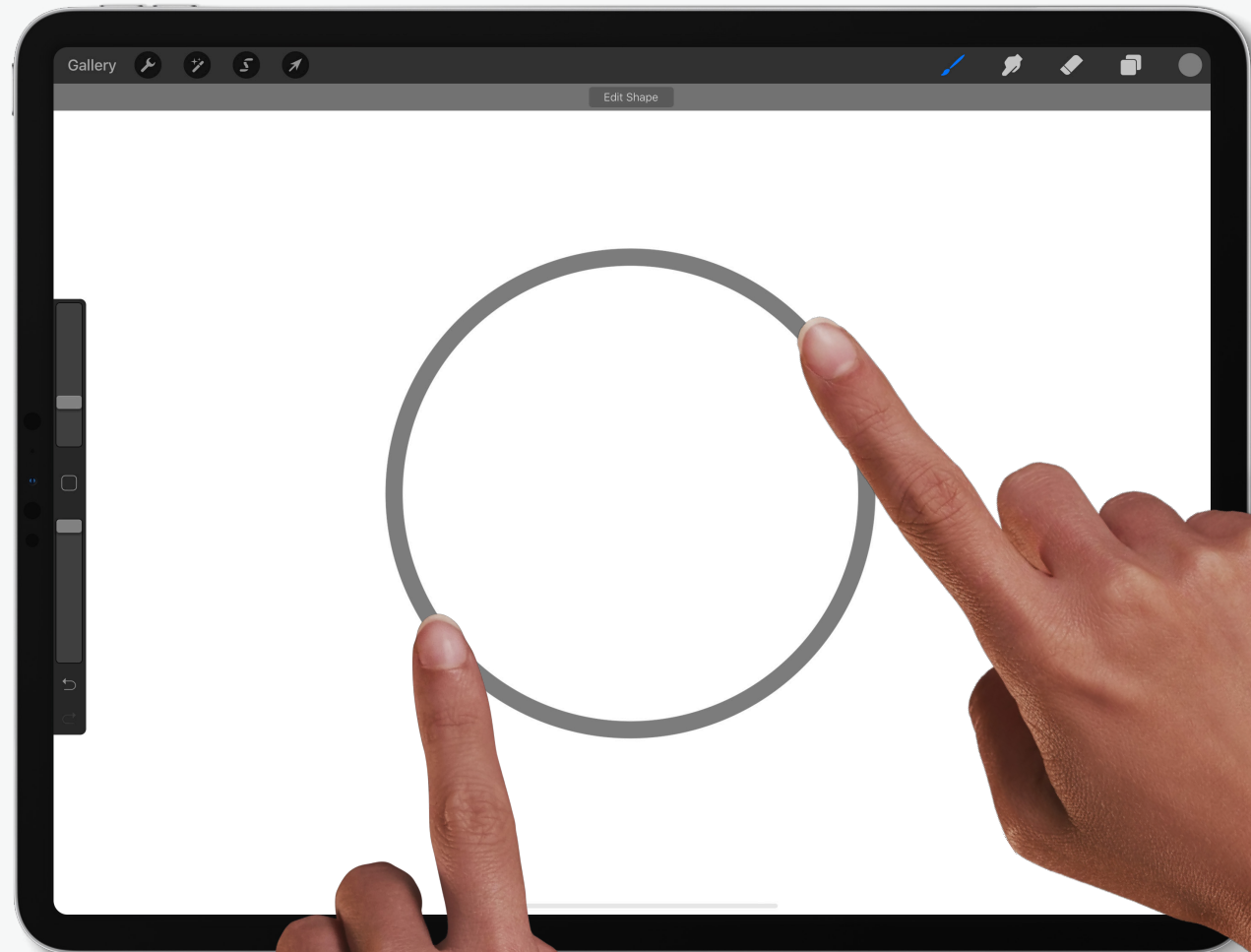to create a new Screen Size canvas.

Procreate

Step one

QuickShape

QuickShape helps you make a perfect circle!

Draw a rough circle, then hold for a second at the end to snap it into a smooth curve. Whilst holding, touch the screen with your left finger for a perfectly round circle.

TIPS

✳ For a nice clean circle, use the *Round Brush* in the *Painting* set.

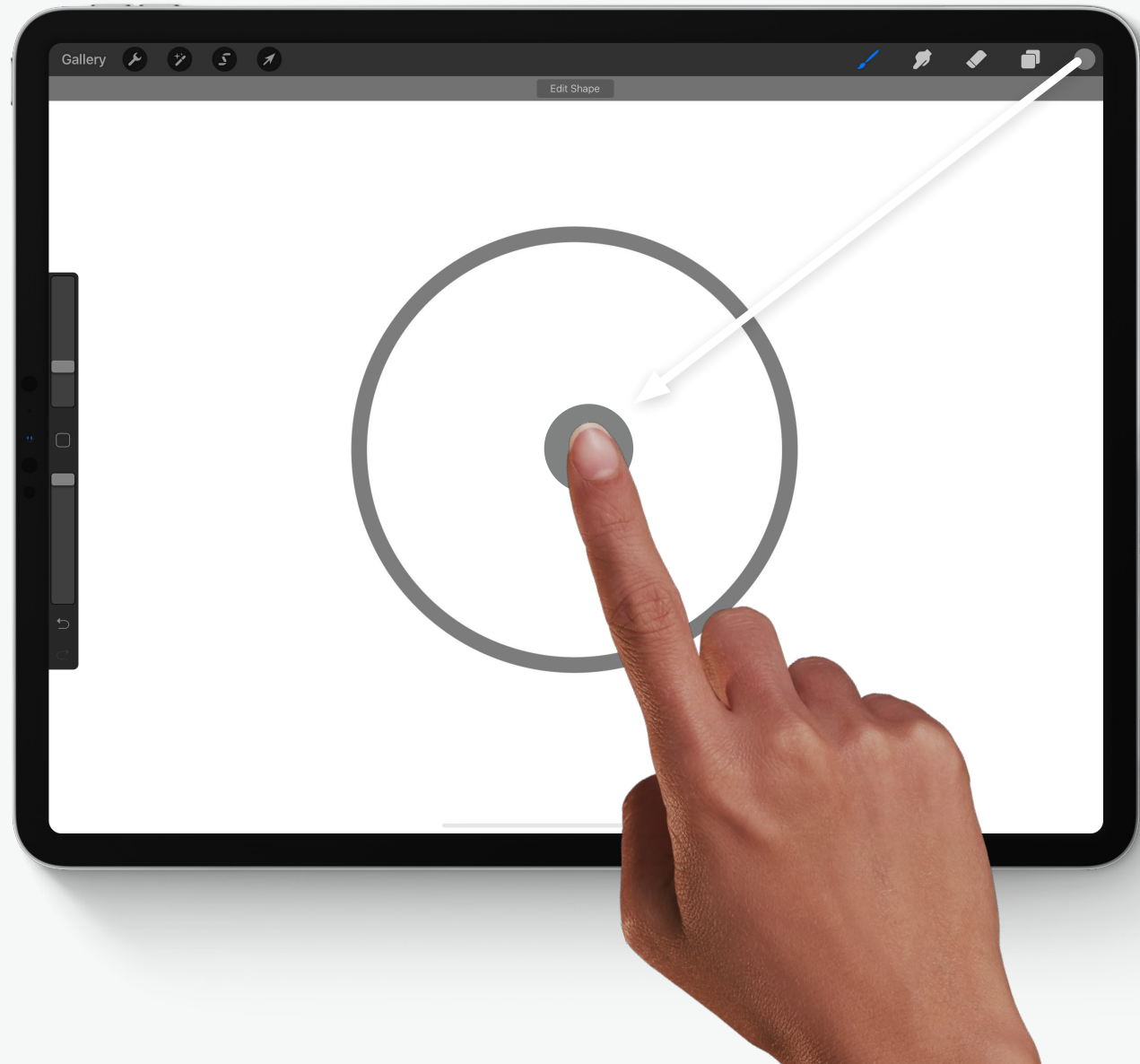✳ Use a neutral color like gray for your planet as you will be adding color later.

Gallery

Edit Shape

Procreate

Step two

ColorDrop

Drag the *Color Button* to fill
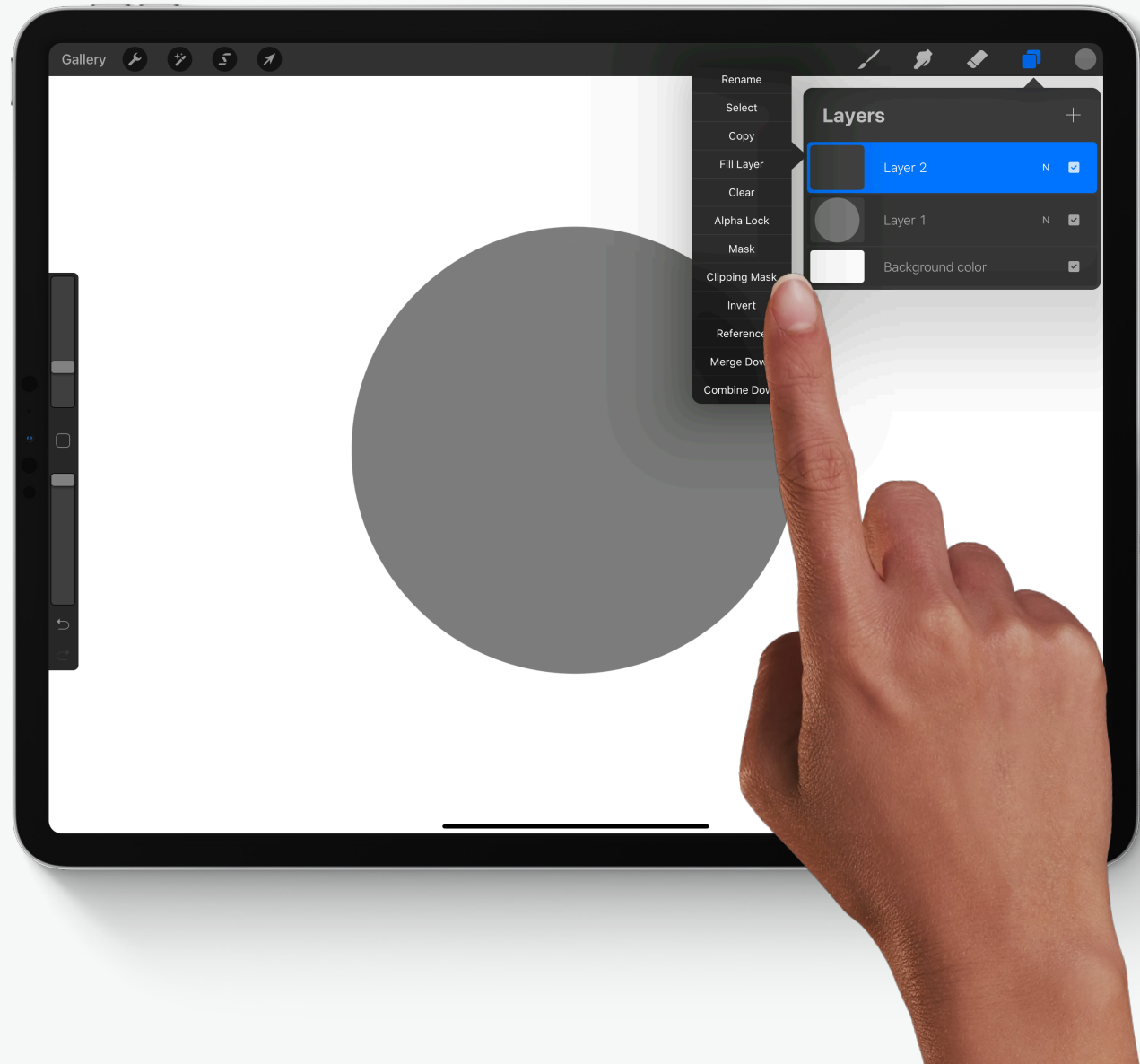your circle with colors.

Gallery

Edit Shape

Step three

Clipping Mask

Tap the plus icon (+)
in the *Layers* panel to create
a new layer. Then tap that layer
and select *Clipping Mask*.

This means any artwork on
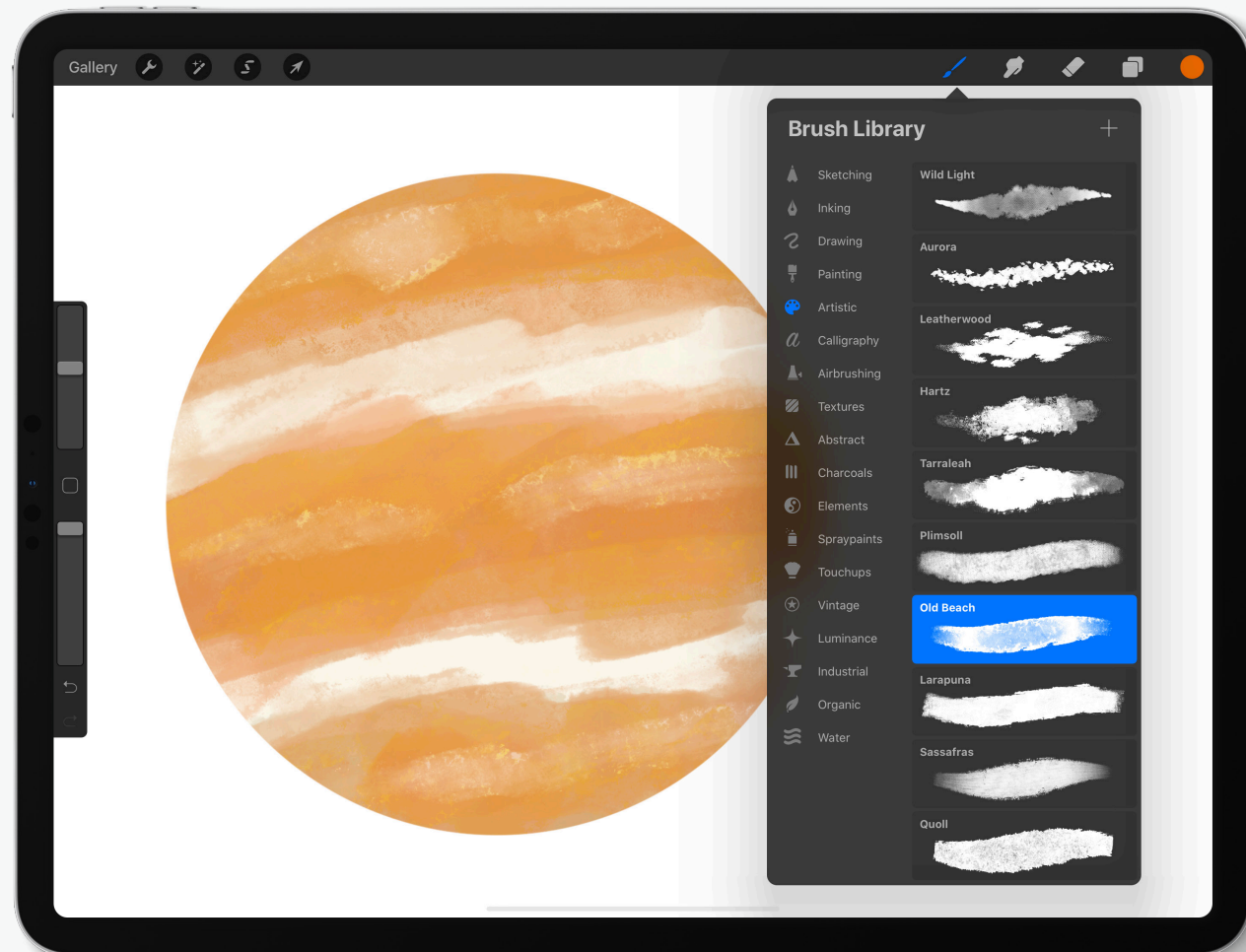the new layer will remain within
your circle.

Step four

Base coat

Tap the *Brush* icon and select a brush. We have used *Old Beach* in the *Artistic* brush set here.

Don't go into too much detail in the base coat, just try to create the main colors and textures of your planet.
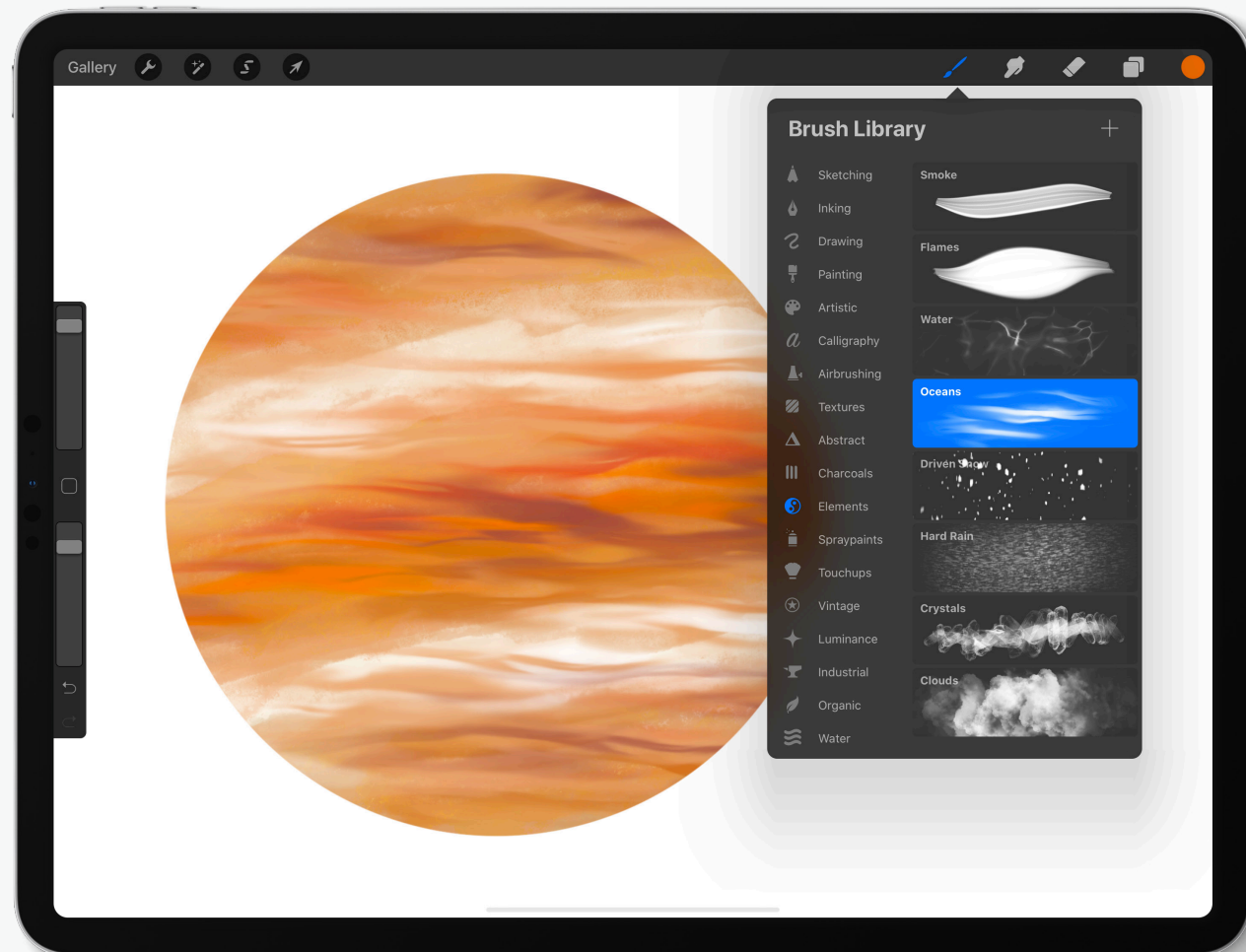
Step five

Top coat

Now you can add more detail. Try using darker and lighter colors to add more definition. Select brushes with more defined textures, like clouds, waves or spots.

TIPS

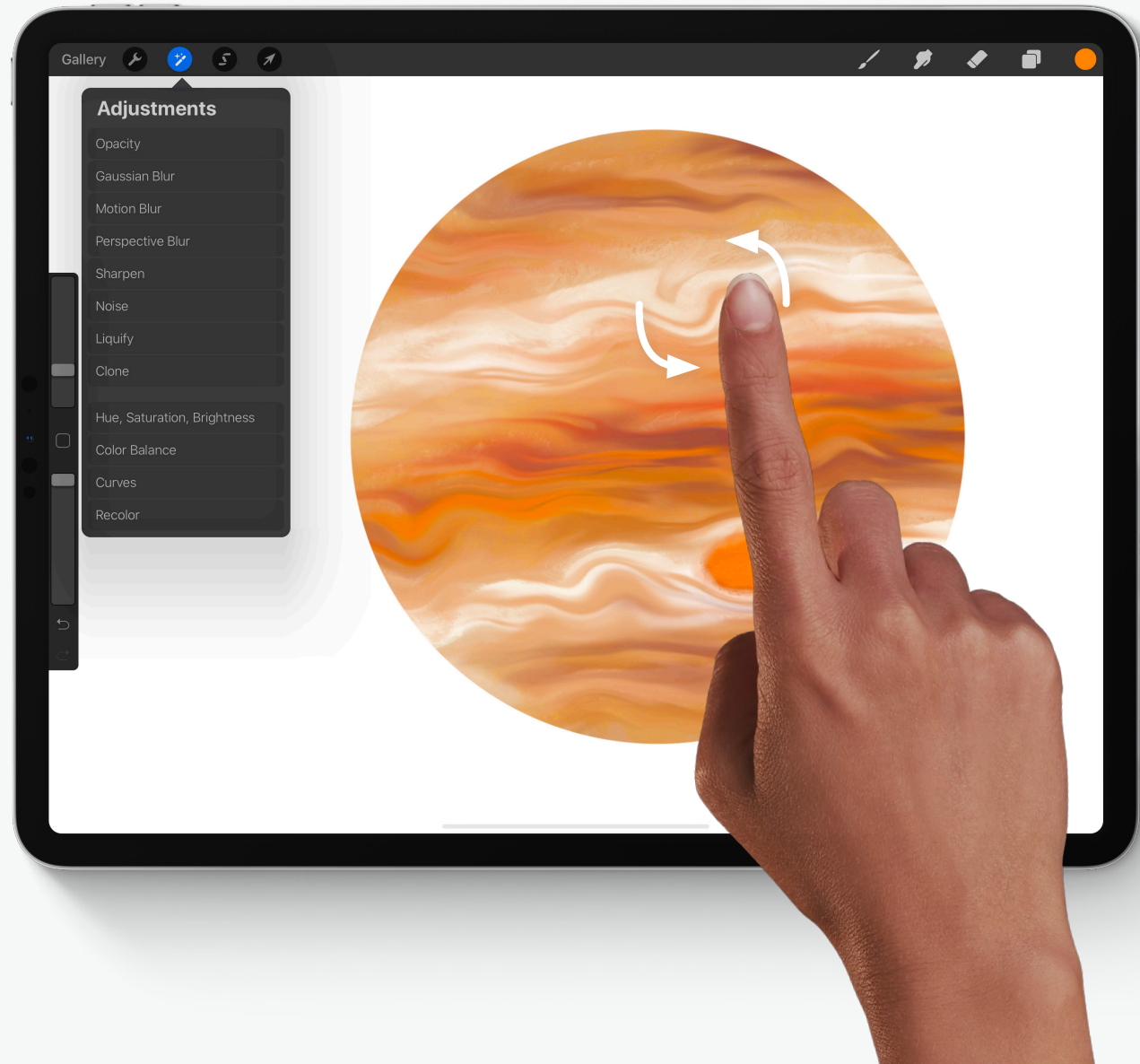✳ Feel free to create new layers for new levels of detail. Remember to use a Clipping Mask on each layer.

Step six

Liquify

Tap the *Adjustments* icon and then tap *Liquify*.

Select from the *Liquify* effects at the bottom, and have fun! We are using *Twirl Left* in this example.
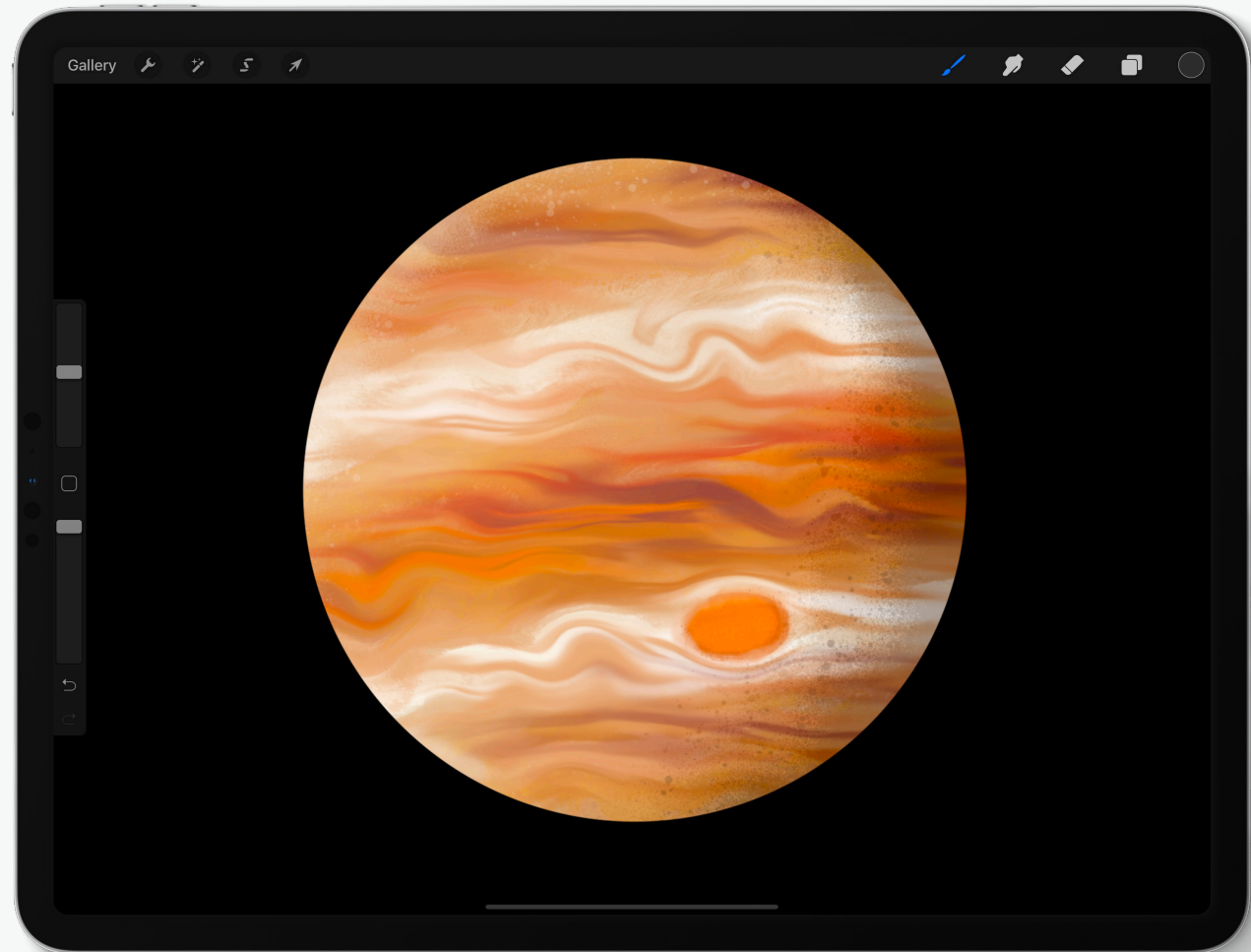
Step seven

Finishing touches

Try changing the *Background color* in *Layers* to a dark color. Add some final touches such as shading and light.

Drag the *Brush Opacity* slider down to create soft light and shadow. We have used brushes from *Spray Paints* to create a textured shadow.
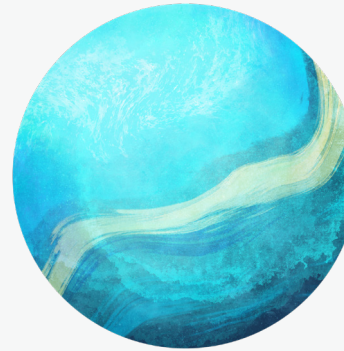
What's next?

More planets!

Digital art is all about experimenting. Play around with the tools you have learned so far to create more planets for your Solar System.

TIPS

✳ Stay organized by creating a new canvas for each planet.

✳ Use the Safari app to find images and inspiration for your planet artwork.

EARTH

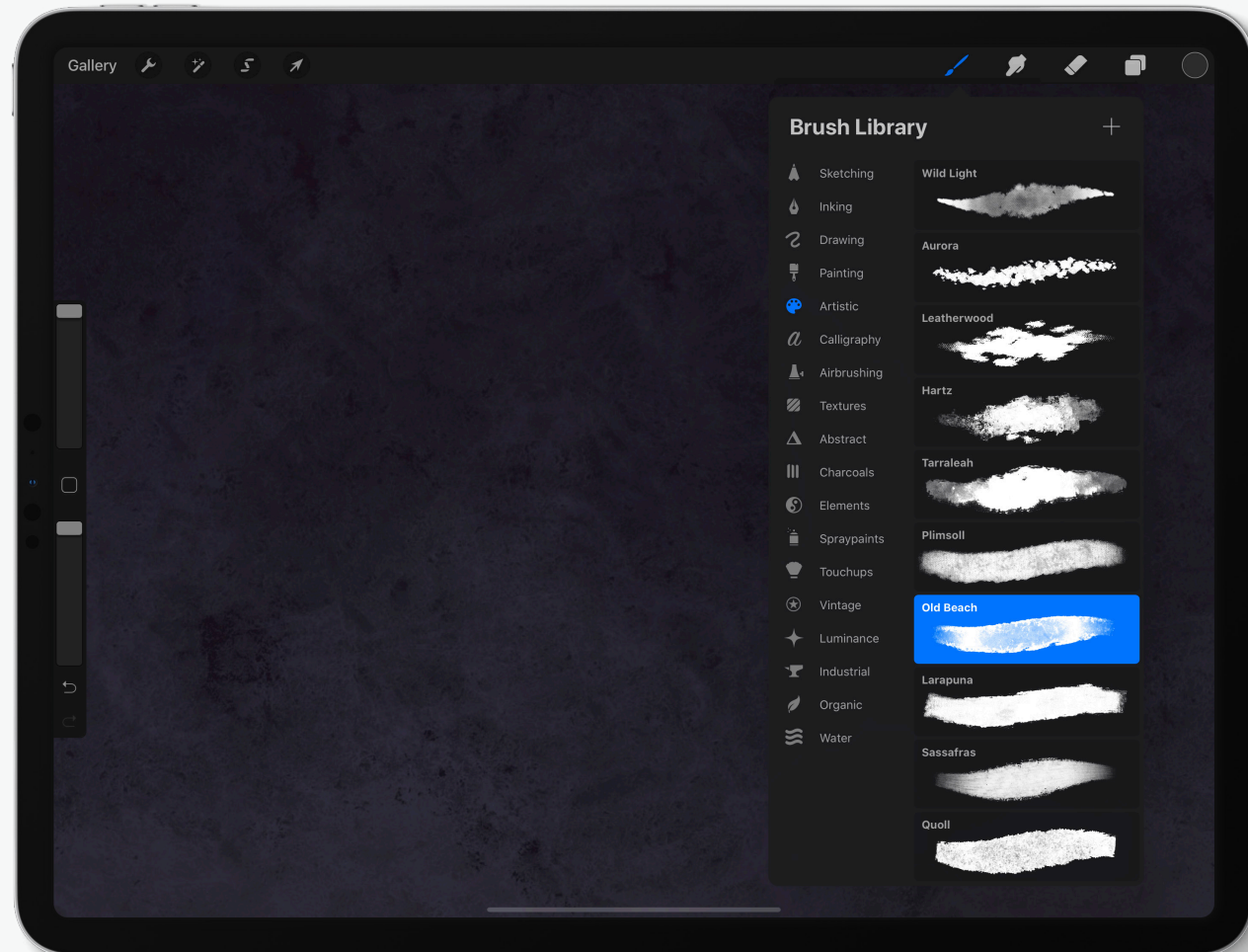URANUS

VENUS

Safari

Bring it together

Set the scene

Create a night sky

On a new canvas, paint a dark, textured background by playing around with different shades of textured brushes.

TIPS

✳ In this example, we have used the *Old Beach* brush in the *Artistic* set.

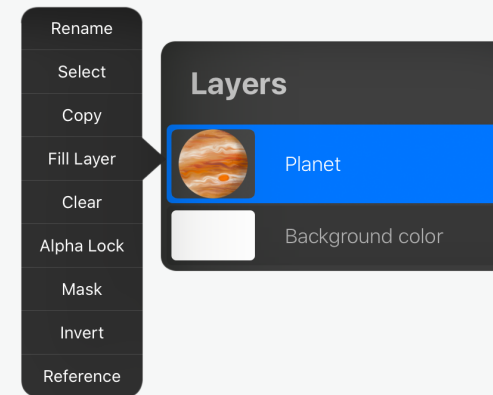✳ Increase the brush size (top slider on the left) to make broad, textured strokes.

Add your planets

Copy and paste

Easily add planets to your galaxy.
Tap the planet in the *Layers* panel
and select *Copy*. Open your galaxy
canvas and select the wrench icon,
tap *Add*, then *Paste*.

LAYER TIPS

✳ To copy an artwork using this method,
it must be one single layer. If you have
multiple layers, simply merge them
by pinching the layers together.

Rename
Select
Copy
Fill Layer
Clear
Alpha Lock
Mask
Invert
Reference

Layers

Planet

Background color

Layers   +

Light

Shadow

Texture

Planet

Background color

Create a galaxy

Lay it all out

When you paste in a planet, the *Transform* tool will automatically apply. The dotted line around your planet is called a bounding box.

TIPS

✳ Drag the corners of the bounding box to resize your planet.

✳ Drag within or outside the bounding box to move your planet around the canvas.

Take it further

Can you complete the Solar System?

Can you add the lines of orbit? Perhaps a few shooting stars?

TIPS

✳ Use a small size and low opacity on your orbit, to make it subtle.

✳ Make perfect curves using *QuickShape*, by holding your finger for a second at the end of each line.

✳ Making perfect curves can be tricky, so remember your two-finger tap to undo any mistakes!

Create

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potential of Procreate, see our
Handbook at procreate.art/handbook

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