

SYNTHESIS OF DIGITAL ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ILLUSTRATION: A CASE STUDY OF THE FALSE PROPHET

EBEWEBIRUE O. Solomon.

Dept. of Fine and Applied Arts Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Delta Agbor,
Delta State, Nigeria

Abstract

This studio-based exploratory research investigates the integration of digital art and photography in the creation of illustrations, drawing upon the biblical concept of the False Prophet as presented in Matthew 7:15–20. Digital photography uses camera and computer packages that allows for photo editing in creating pictures, while digital art is the use of digital tools for picture making. It involves all works of art that are electronically created with the aid of digital tools like computer, tablets, digital pen and Software Applications that allows for digital art. Photographic illustrations produced through conventional print techniques, such as stencil and silk screen printing, were historically used for decoration and instructional purposes. However, in the contemporary digital age, these methods often appear less appealing and less presentable compared to modern approaches to art-making. People appreciate art forms that are digitally produced for decoration. This study therefore attempt to synthesize photography and digital art to create a beautiful digital photographic art illustration. This research will create digital photographic illustration that will reveal deep interpretations of the selected word of God thereby creating aesthetically pleasing photographic image as artwork for decoration and instructional material. Sketchbook App in Graphic Drawing Tablet will be used to create the photographic illustration. The processes will establish a new artistic character, fostering the emergence of innovative skills in picture-making.

Key words: Digital Art, Digital Photography, Digital Illustration and False Prophet

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, innovation drives progress and lifestyle improvement. Any person or field that resists change risks fading into irrelevance. The artist and art profession are not exempted and should seek a better way to create, communicate, decorate and entertain using letters and images

Art is a product of creativity. Artists communicate with visual images and have no limits in the use of materials and styles in the production of art works. Modern artists are presently breaking away from the conventional style, techniques, method and materials. They now seek modern materials, tools, techniques, and methods in order to align with the demands of the present digital world. Digital art are all art work that utilize computer and software applications.

Graphics artist uses visual images or designs on surfaces such as walls canvas, screen, paper or product to inform, educate, illustrate, or entertain their audience. Graphics involves communication, creativity, decoration, entertainment via letters and images. The images may be captured, drawn, printed, or painted, among other techniques, to more effectively convey information to the viewer

Photographic illustrations that were created using the conventional print technique such as stencil prints, silk screen prints for decoration often are not quite pleasurable and presentable in this digital age of creating art forms. People appreciate art forms that are digitally produced for decoration. This was supported by Emmanuel, & Feyisope, (2014) where they concluded that Photojournalists in Nigeria prefer digital camera to analog camera and that the use of digital camera/photography has improved photographic quality in Nigerian magazines hence recommend digital camera/photography for better and higher quality photographic production.

Artists are embracing newer techniques and style to meet the present demand of their audience. This study therefore attempt to synthesize photography and digital art to create a beautiful digital art illustration that will reveal deep interpretation of Biblical story of the false prophets according to the Bible book of Matthew 7:15–20.

This studio-based research will be used to answer the following questions. How can digital art be synthesized with photography to create illustration that will interpret the word of God? What photographic illustrations would be generated from the biblical story of the false prophet? What lessons and instructions could be learned from the Biblical story of the false prophet?

This study introduces a new and distinctive style of graphic photographic illustration, integrating digital art and photography to enhance visual communication. It further encourages the synthesis of these two mediums as a means of advancing contemporary picture-making. It will also reveal the interpretation of the Biblical story of the False Prophets and their activities. The following materials: Personal Computer, Samsung Galaxy Tab S4, Digital Camera, Samsung S Pen and

Sketchbook Application among others were used to produce this photographic illustration. This is a studio-based exploratory research synthesizing digital art and photography to create the photographic illustrations of the Biblical story of the False Prophets. A review of books, journal articles, and other relevant sources was conducted to gather information on the subject under investigation.

Review of Related Literature and Practice

Digital Photography

Digital Photography is the process of capturing and manipulating images using digital technology. It involves capturing the images with digital camera and all that the photographer does with the image in digital packages that allow for photo editing. The editorial process involves such stages as colour enhancement, cropping, re-sizing the image, balancing, removing dust and other editing of the image to come out better as a photograph.

Digitalartsblog.com (2023) affirmed “Digital photography as the process of capturing images using cameras or other devices that record light electronically. It equally stated that digital photography aim to capture and represent reality faithfully without extensive manipulations keeping the images produced as realistic representation of the scene or subject photographed.” From the above definition of digital photography, it is clear that digital photography involves the use of digital camera and other photographic devices that record light electronically either for viewing, editing and printing that must not be out of the original subject matter. When a photograph of a man running is digitally altered to include a lion behind him, the image ceases to be pure photography and instead becomes digital art.

Digital Art

Digital art is the use of digital tool for picture making. It includes all works of art that are electronically created with the aid of digital tools like computer, digital camera, tablets, digital pen and Software Applications that allows for digital art. Digital art are created by using digital techniques and tools in making pictures. DXA Group, (2024) stated that “digital art are created using technology like computers, tablets and cameras thereby making it a versatile and accessible form of contemporary art. A defining characteristic of digital art is its capacity to manipulate and edit images, enabling the creation of new forms and styles that are unattainable with analog media. Digital art thus involves producing visual expressions that have not previously existed. It is the

thought or the feelings of the artist about things place or people that are created with digital media. It is different from digital photography. Digital photography captures images and allows for editing while preserving the integrity of the original event.

Digital art involves creating unique image with the tablet or computer that may involve captured photographs or painted images on the computer or tablet and has no limit in creating style and techniques. Samuel, Priscilla, Eric, & Mensah, (2023) stated that “digital art techniques offer opportunities for innovation, creativity, self-expression, efficiency, and versatility. Digital art harnesses modern technologies and software tools to explore diverse artistic styles across multiple mediums in a risk-free environment. It also facilitates effective collaboration among artists and can be easily shared with a wide audience at the artist’s discretion.

Illustration/Digital Illustration

Illustration is the visual image in graphics design that gives deeper interpretation and understanding of the subject matter. Illustration can stand alone or complement text for clarity. Illustration functions as a medium for interpreting and simplifying difficult or complex issues and terminology, offering clearer meaning and fostering deeper understanding for the viewer. It is digital when it uses digital tools (computers, graphic drawing tablets, electronics pen and software application).

Digital illustration is the use of tools from computer software to create illustrations. Every tool like pencil, art brush, hairbrush, eraser, atomizer, ruler, layout, and filter effects, to mention a few, are represented digitally in an illustration software (Onwuekwe 2012:1) He further described digital illustrations as computer illustrations or digital drawings and paintings which is possible with the help of the Graphical user Interface, alongside the hardware devices.

Illustrations are pictures that come in different forms; paintings, drawings, animations, photographs and sketches depending on the subject matter and most recently digital illustration. According to Irvweieri (2022), “illustration is about explaining or clarifying something through drawing, painting or printed work. It is a visual interpretation of a text or a concept.” Illustration helps for easy understanding of a complex concept. This study will therefore illustrate the story of the false prophets for a proper understanding of the Bible potion.

Yueying C., (2018) stated that “illustration is developed with writing and gives text a better interpretation through painting techniques so that readers can have a deeper impression and understanding of the writing. Illustration appears mostly in pictures, with certain independence. If accompanied by words, it enhances their appeal to readers through visual effect, rather than to narrate.” Illustration gives deeper interpretations to words and showcases the issue as real as possible. People presently do not go for a written text but spend time in viewing images and short videos and this is why Facebook App, WhatsApp and other social media apps that allows for images viewing are excelling. Osaigbovo, (2025) generally describe illustration as text pictographic material enhancer or amplifier that can still appear without text.

The Theme (False Prophets)

The world is replete with stories of insecurity and moral decadency. Every day, one hears a story of man’s inhumanity to man. Though there are many religious houses and knowledge available to give moral direction, yet one cannot sleep with two eyes closed. All these are because of wrong teachings and doctrines. Every person in the society wants to make money. Greed and the love of money has overwhelmed us. Even in most religious houses, the real instructions have been missed because of greed and compromise. One cannot give what one doesn’t have, a Lion begets a Lion and a Goat begets a Goat.

Jesus Christ stated in the book of Matthew 7:15-20, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Many people had forgotten about the commandment and the judgment of God and had gone astray. All this recent occurrences in our society and the word at large are the result of the false prophet instructions.

Synthesis and the skill involved

Synthesis of digital art and photography for illustration is the process of combination of digital art and photography to create better illustrations unachievable in realistic photography. Many artist and advertising agencies combines digital drawing/art with photography to facilitate the costumer’s and viewer’s interest.

Morwani and Agarwal (2024) affirmed that photography and illustration are two different art forms that can be combined to create a new and interesting art style. They sampled different art works of artists that explored digital photo drawing/illustration thus drawing directly on an existing photograph to create a new art form as desired by the artist. Photographs are combined with drawing or digital art in various formats according to the desire of the artist. In figure 2 of this study, wolf's head was drawn on a sheep giving the animal a different look thus half sheep and half wolf (sheep body and wolf head). The ribs of the Sheep were painted to create lean and skinny creating the impression of suffering.

The Digital Arts Process

Digital art describes all the art works created using digital aid materials. Digital art are art works that are produced using computer and tablet in soft copy but could be printed to be viewed in hard copy. Here the researcher with the aid of digital tools and materials create illustrations that are merged with photography to create the complete synthesis of digital art and photography illustration

This study is a studio based exploratory research involving series of experimentation. The researcher used Samsung Galaxy Tab S4 and the Samsung Pen (Screen Touch/Digital Pen) to draw directly on Sketchbook Application Software to create the digital art illustrations. In some cases, the model captured with the digital Camera are imported/copied into the Sketchbook interface and a layer is then added above the image layer and the image is then traced onto the new layer above and thereafter the image layer is then deleted. The researcher then paints the traced shape of the image as desired. This process completes the digital art.

Photography Process

Photography illustration process involves capturing the model and all that the photographer does with the images to come out better. The researcher pose model in action and capture the model with the digital camera and the image is then edited with Photoroom App. In the Photoroom, the background of the images was removed. This is done by clicking transparent background on the Photoroom interface that led me to my gallery and choose a particular image. The background was automatically removed when it has data. Photoroom is a paid App. The edited image are then

copied to the Sketchbook App Interface and more illustrations are made directly on the edited image/images to create the complete synthesis of digital art and photography illustration.

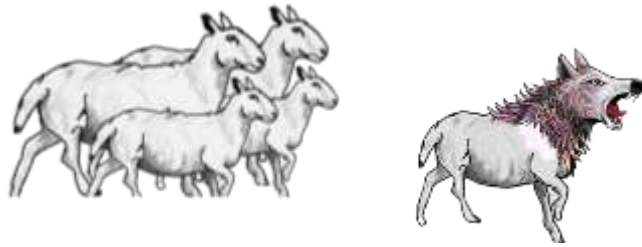


Figure 1 drawing and painting
of the Sheep

Figure 2 drawing of the Wolf
in Sheep clothing

Figure 3 the digital art

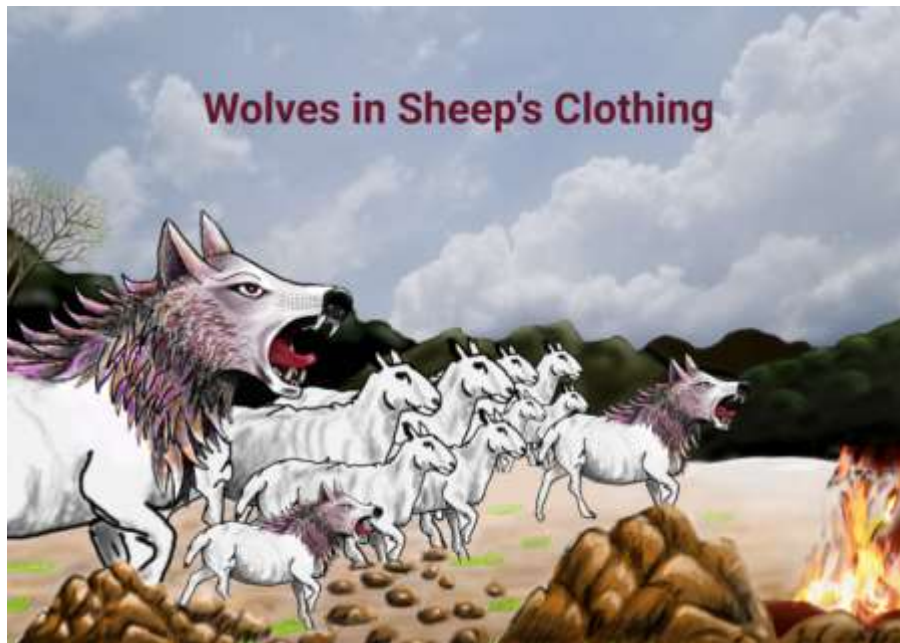


Figure 4. EBWEWEBIRUE O. Solomon, *Wolves in Sheep's Clothing*, Synthesis of Digital Art and
Photography for Illustration (29cm x 41cm) 2025

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing is a pictorial illustration of three howling wolves in sheepfold leading the Sheep in a desert and rocky environment with a burning fire at the end. This illustration is used in this study as an instructional material to depict the Biblical teaching of the false prophets by Jesus Christ in the book of Matthew chapter 7 verses 15.

From the illustration, the false prophets are the wolves leading the flocks astray in a desert land instead of a pasture. And the flocks; the supposed children of God are slim and are heading to eternal condemnation being led by the wolves/false prophets. The false prophets have no word of God thereby starving the children of God with the right word and doctrine. This is why there are insecurity and stories of man inhumanity to man in our society today and the word at large. 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

After removing the background of the photograph of a sheep in the Potoroom App, then copied it into the Sketchbook App Interface in Samsung Galaxy Tab S4 with Samsung S Pen (Digital Pen). I duplicated the image by copy and paste considering the law of perspective in different layers as in Figure 1. The head of the wolf was drawn and painted in Sketchbook interface directly with the digital pen and merged with the image of a sheep as in Figure 2. The foreground was painted and the layer was taken to the back to allow view of the other image layers as in Figure 3. The images were merged with the photograph of the sky and the fire is snapped with the digital camera to create the complete synthesis of digital art and photography illustration as in Figure 4. The illustration could be printed and used for decoration or shared in soft copies as an instructional material to impart the fear of God on our children.



Figure 1 Figure 5 Drawing and Painting of the Fruit



Figure 6 Editing of the photograph

Figure 5 is the digital drawing and painting of the fruit. In Figure 6 model was set to pose as being worshiping and photographed. The background was removed as usual and the images are arranged in Sketchbook interface. The images are then merged with the fruits as in as Figure 7.



Figure 7 Merging the Fruit and the Photograph



Figure 8. Drawing and Painting of the Tree

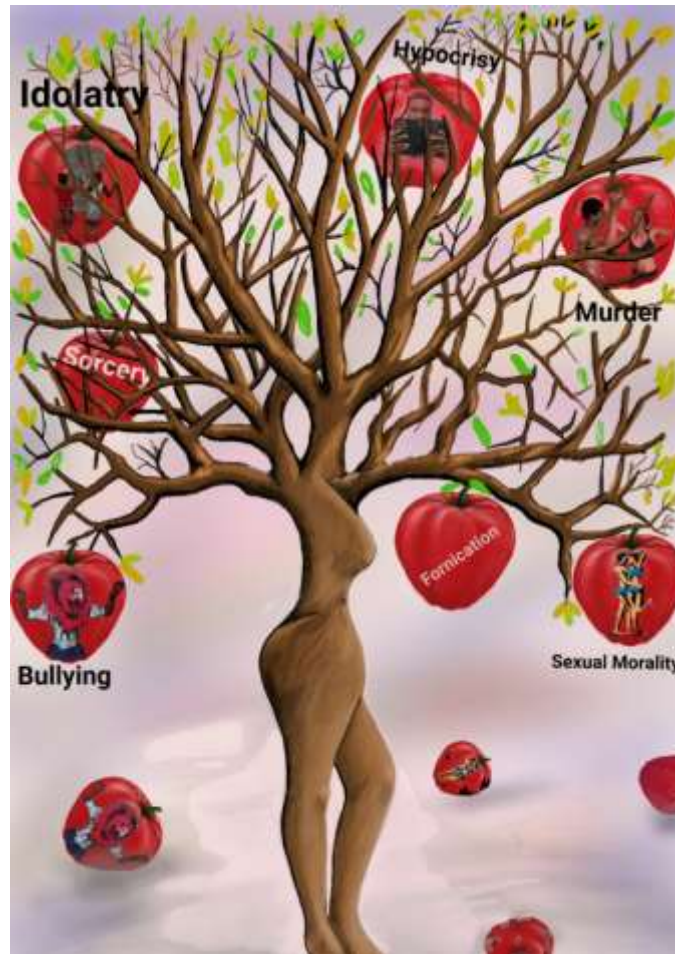


Figure 8. EBEWEBIRUE O. Solomon, *By Their Fruits We Shall Know Them*. Synthesis of Digital Art and Photographic Illustration (29cm x 41cm) 2025

By Their Fruits we shall know them is a pictorial illustration that shows a picture of a dry tree having a naked female shape at the trunk and dry branches, leaves and succulent fruits at the tree top. The fruits have pictures embedded in them others were inscribed with words. Some of the fruits were on the floor.

In this study, the phrase “*By their fruits we shall know them*” is employed to signify the activities and manifestations of false prophets as recorded in Matthew 7:15–20. The image of a dry and barren tree represents false prophets who lack knowledge of God’s word and fail to provide proper guidance for the flock. The fruits symbolize their characteristics and qualities, while the succulent nature of the fruits illustrates the sweet yet deceptive messages they deliver—pleasant to hear but ultimately poisonous to the soul. In verse 18 and 19 it was recorded that “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit or a bad tree bear a good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and

thrown into the fire.” In biblical symbolism, the tree represents human beings. Accordingly, this study depicts the tree in human form. Any individual who fails to do the will of God and engages in evil, as illustrated by the fruits above and as stated in Scripture, shall be cut down and cast into the fire. Heaven and hell are realities, and the choice rests with each person. Ultimately, every individual shall reap the consequences of his actions.

Conclusion

From the works produced in the studio, it was observed that illustration can be derived from the biblical account of false prophets in Matthew 7:15–20. This study encourages the synthesis of digital art and photography in illustration. Furthermore, digital art illustrations may be traced, photographed, or painted, existing as digital art even without displaying the original photograph. Images can also be resized and merged with photographs to create new compositions.

Digital art and photography were successfully synthesized in this study and had been used to create beautiful illustrations and interpret the word of God according to the book of Matthew chapter 7 verses 15 to 20. The work produced can be used for decorations and as an instructional material to teach and create the fear of God to the young ones thereby making the world a better place for us all.

In Plate 8, the manifestations and deeds of false prophets are vividly illustrated through the symbolism of the fruits. Plate 4 further depicts false prophets as wolves, leading the flock of God astray and ultimately into everlasting punishment.

This study has demonstrated a new and unique style of graphic photographic illustration, encouraging the synthesis of digital art and photography in picture-making. It further reveals the interpretation of the biblical account of false prophets and their activities, as recorded in Matthew 7:15–20.

References

Digitalartsblog.com (2023). *When Does Photography Become Digital Art?* Retrieved From <https://www.digitalartsblog.com/tips/photography-digital-art#:~:text=Even%20though%20a%20clear%2Dcut,instead%2C%20photography%20becomes%20digital%20art>. July 12, 2024.

- DXA Group, (2024) Digital Photography vs Digital Art: What's The Difference? Retrieved From <https://dxagroup.io/photography-vs-digital-art-whats-the-difference/> July 12, 2024.
- Emmanuel, I. and Feyisope, S. (2014) Relating Improved Picture Quality to Adoption of Digital Camera: A Survey of Nigerian Magazines *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 19, Issue 11, Ver. IV (Nov. 2014), PP 32-39.*
- Irivweieri G. O. (2022), Exploration of Entrepreneurial Skills In Graphic design for Employment Generation. *Environs Echo*. An International Journal Published By The Faculty Of Environmental Science, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Abakaleke, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. Vol.1 No 1 Pp1-17.
- Morwani, S., and Agarwal, K. (2024). Digital Photo Drawing: Exploring the Synergy of Photography and Illustration. *ShodhKosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 5(ICETDA24), 268–277.
- Samuel A., Priscilla W., Eric D. A., & Mensah K. E. (2023). *A Comparative Study of Traditional Art Techniques versus Digital Art Techniques in the Context of College Visual Art Education*. American Journal of Arts, Social and Humanity Studies, Vol. 3, Issue 1, Pp 21-34.
- The Holy Bible, New King James Version (2018), Thomas Nelson, A Division of Harper Collins Christian Publishing, Inc.
- Onwuekwe, C. (2012) Trends In Illustration: A Digital Approach To Large Format Illustrations On Igbo Folklore, Mgbakoigba: Journal Of African Studies. <https://scispace.com/pdf/trends-in-illustration-a-digital-approach-to-large-format-2bjp4jakmv.pdf> Vol. 1.
- Osaigbovo, F.O. (2025) A Review of Pen And Ink Drawing as Tool for Illustration in Graphic and Advertising Design Production (An Excerpt), Landmark in Visual Arts Research, Published by Egonwa Guild of Scholars
- Yueying C., (2018) Analysis of the Application of Illustration Art in Graphic Design. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, volume 246, Pp 539-541. Published by Atlantis Press. Retrieved from (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>). On 31st January, 2025.

KEY:

The highlighted portions represent the reviewer's corrections compared to the author's original copy.

COMMENT

Your paper introduces an important topic and provides a clear overview. However, the analysis feels somewhat limited in scope. For instance, the illustration on the wolves in sheep's clothing could benefit from more detailed references. Also comprehensively explain the illustration used as an instructional material to depict the biblical teaching of the false prophets.

Expanding on these areas would give the reader a more comprehensive understanding and enrich your discussion.