

# Artistic Brushes

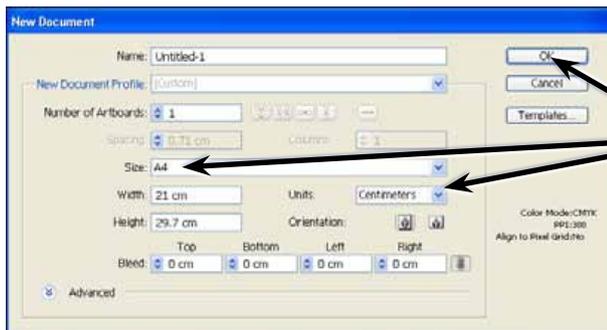
Illustrator provides numerous types of artistic brushes that allow paint-like sketches to be created, but still with the advantage of being vector based.

## The Art Brush

The ART BRUSH allows you to attach symbols or images to the PAINTBRUSH TOOL and paint with them so that multiple versions of the image or symbol can be placed on the ARTBOARD. This means that each painted version is slightly different giving a more realistic look to the copies. For example, you can use this tool to create a forest of trees or a flower bed of flowers.

### A Starting a New Document

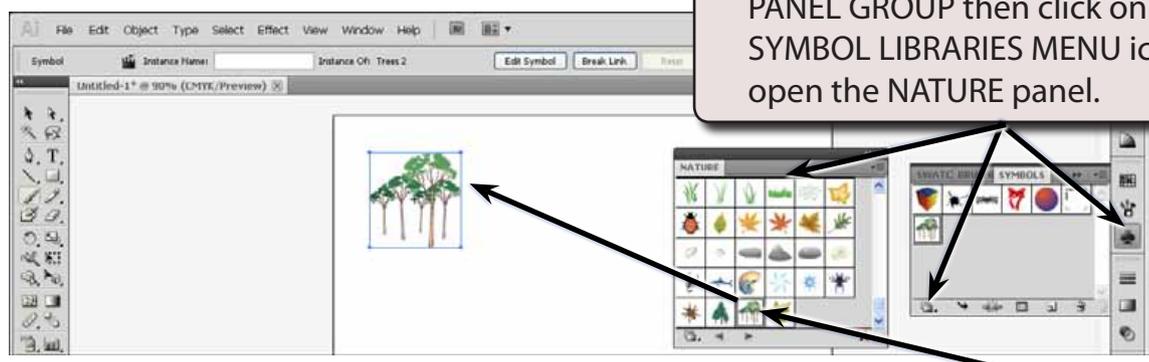
- 1 Load Adobe Illustrator CS5 or close the current document.
- 2 Display the FILE menu and select NEW to start a new document.



3 Set the SIZE to A4 (or the paper size your printer uses), the UNITS to CENTIMETRES and select OK.

## B Creating the Image

In this case a symbol will be used as the image, but you could import an image and apply a LIVE TRACE on it to convert it to an Illustrator image.

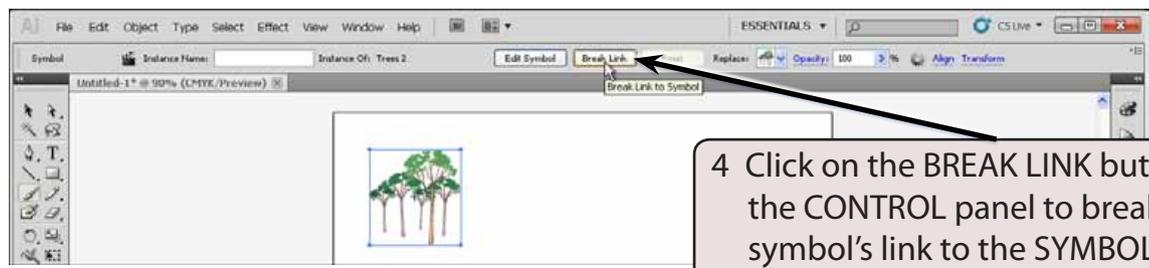


1 Expand the SYMBOLS panel in the PANEL GROUP then click on the SYMBOL LIBRARIES MENU icon and open the NATURE panel.

2 Drag the TREES 2 symbol to the top left of the ARTBOARD.

3 Close the NATURE panel.

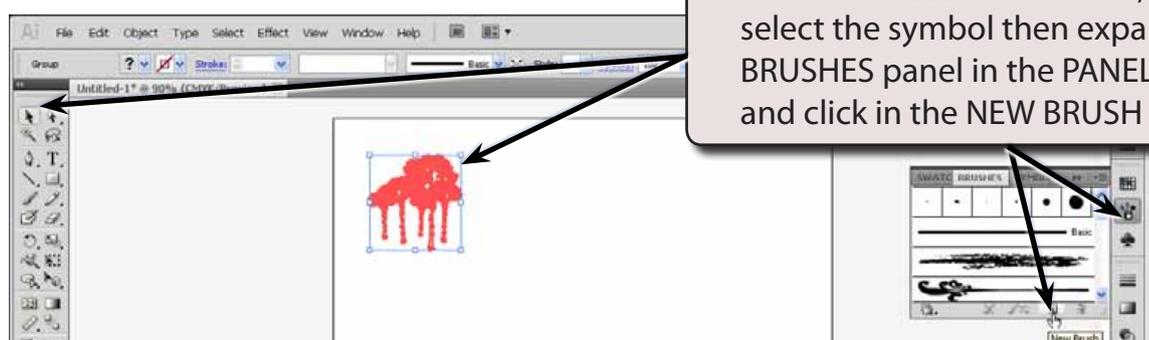
The screenshot shows the Adobe Illustrator CS5 interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Object, Type, Select, Effect, View, Window, and Help. The main workspace shows a symbol instance of a tree on the artboard. The SYMBOLS panel is open, displaying the NATURE panel with various symbols. A callout box with an arrow points to the SYMBOL LIBRARIES MENU icon and the NATURE panel. Another callout box with an arrow points to the TREES 2 symbol being dragged to the artboard. A third callout box with an arrow points to the NATURE panel being closed.



4 Click on the BREAK LINK button in the CONTROL panel to break the symbol's link to the SYMBOLS panel.

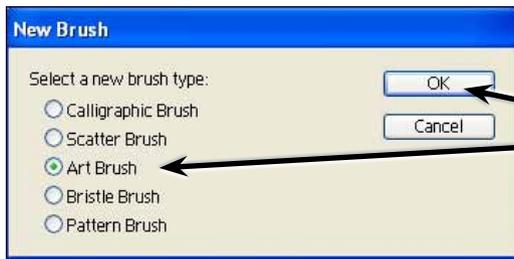
The screenshot shows the Adobe Illustrator CS5 interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Object, Type, Select, Effect, View, Window, and Help. The main workspace shows the tree symbol on the artboard. The CONTROL panel is visible, showing the BREAK LINK button. A callout box with an arrow points to the BREAK LINK button.

## C Creating the Art Brush

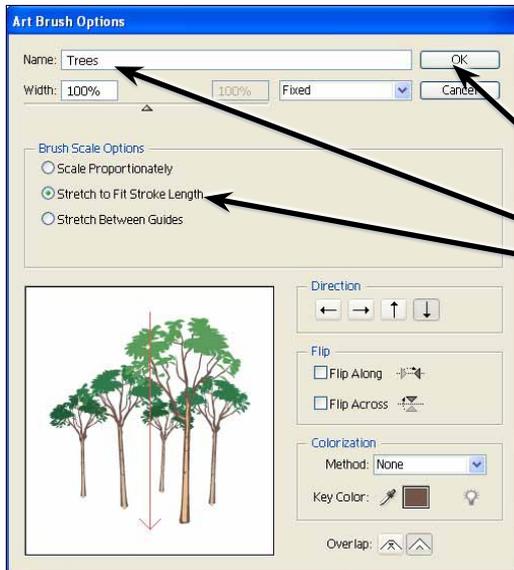


1 Select the SELECTION TOOL, select the symbol then expand the BRUSHES panel in the PANEL GROUP and click in the NEW BRUSH icon.

The screenshot shows the Adobe Illustrator CS5 interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Object, Type, Select, Effect, View, Window, and Help. The main workspace shows the tree symbol on the artboard. The BRUSHES panel is open, displaying the NEW BRUSH icon. A callout box with an arrow points to the SELECTION TOOL in the toolbar. Another callout box with an arrow points to the NEW BRUSH icon in the BRUSHES panel.

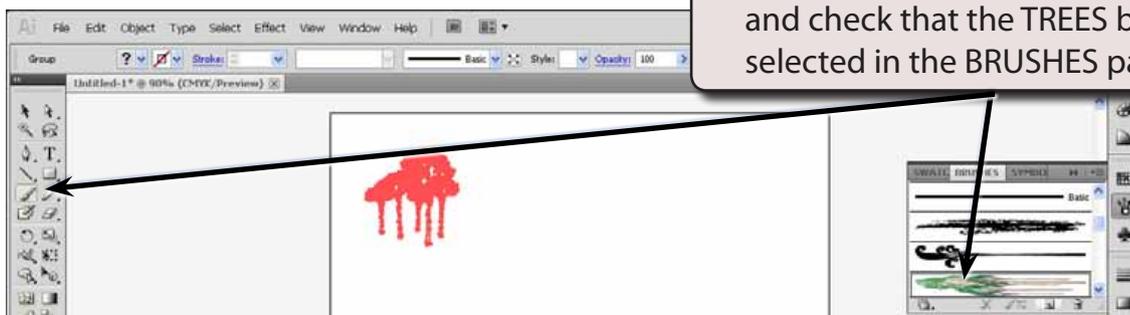


2 In the NEW BRUSH dialogue box select ART BRUSH and select OK.

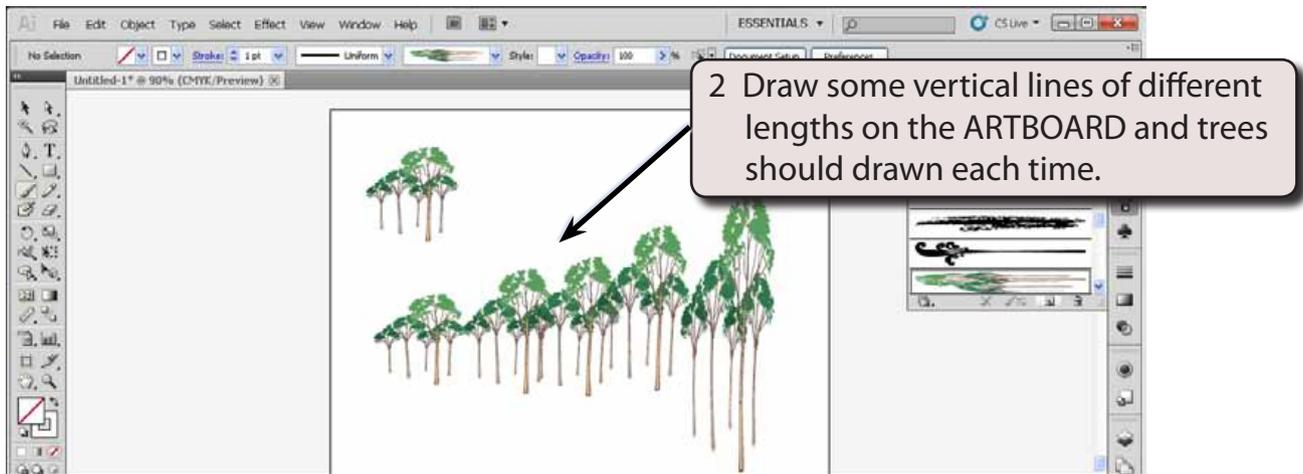


3 The ART BRUSH OPTIONS dialogue box is opened, name the brush TREES, leave STRETCH TO FIT STROKE LENGTH selected and click on OK.

## D Painting The Trees



1 Select the PAINTBRUSH TOOL and check that the TREES brush is selected in the BRUSHES panel.



**NOTE:**

- i You can hold down the **SHIFT** key as you drag the vertical lines to ensure that the lines are straight.
- ii Notice that the images are stretched in the longer lines. This can be prevented.

## E Limiting the Stretching of Images

The stretching that occurs when painting an image can be prevented. In this case, it might be better if the tree trunks can stretch, but the branches remain fixed in size.

