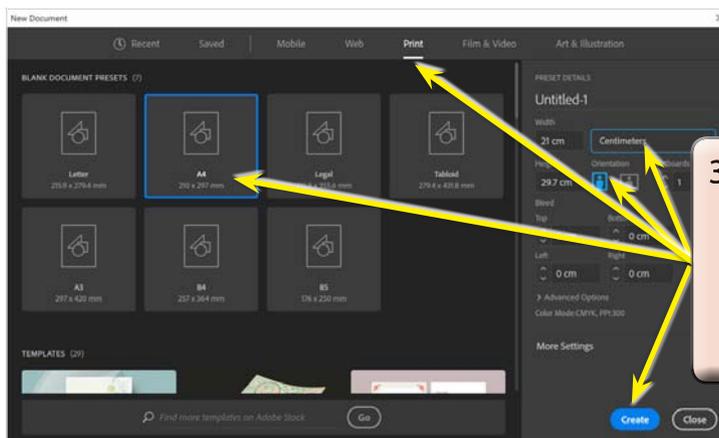# Art, Pattern and Bristle Brushes

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 bed of flowers.

A   Starting a New Document
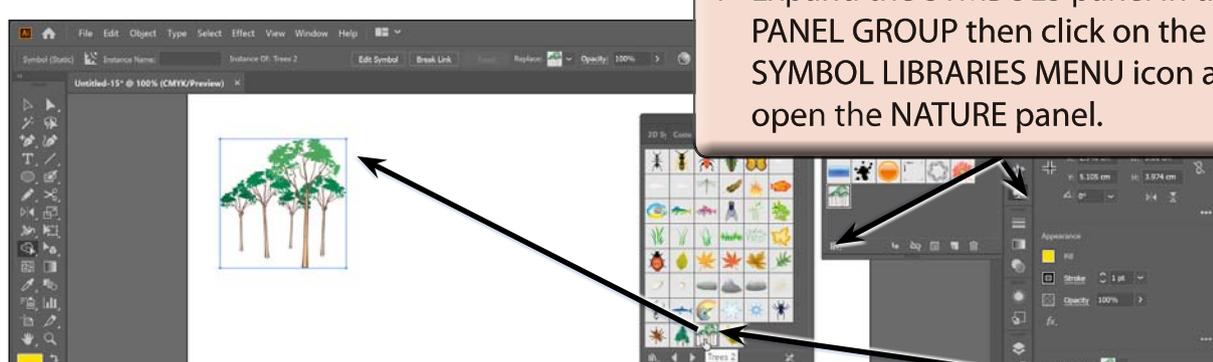
1   Load Adobe Illustrator CC or close the current document.

2   Select CREATE NEW from the WELCOME screen or NEW from the FILE menu to start a new document.

3   Select the PRINT category followed by the A4 preset (or the paper size your printer uses), set the UNITS to CENTIMETRES, the ORIENTATION to PORTRAIT and select CREATE.
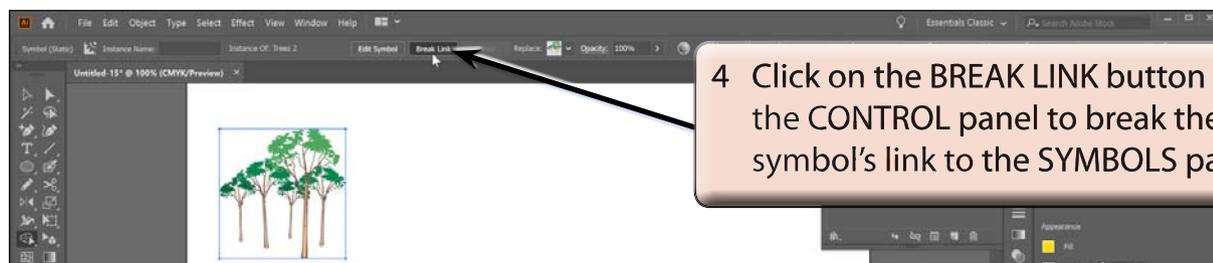
B   Creating the Image

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 covert 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.

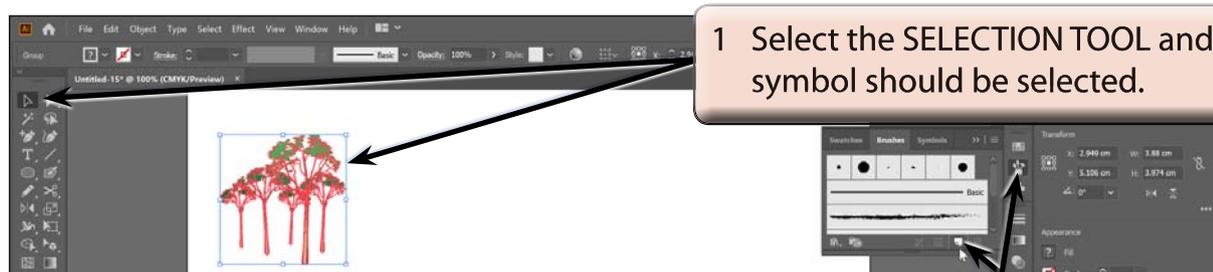2 Drag the TREES 2 symbol to the top left of the Artboard.
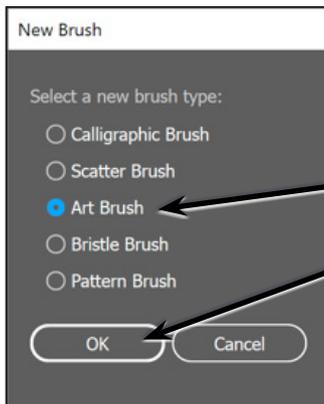
3   Close the NATURE panel.

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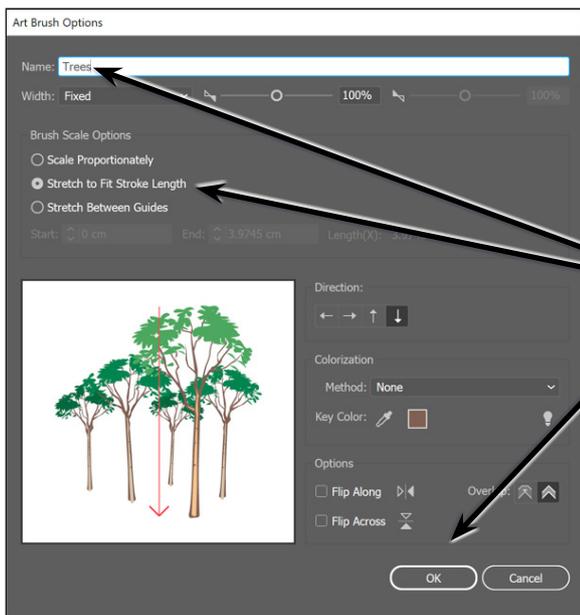
C   Creating the Art Brush

1 Select the SELECTION TOOL and the symbol should be selected.

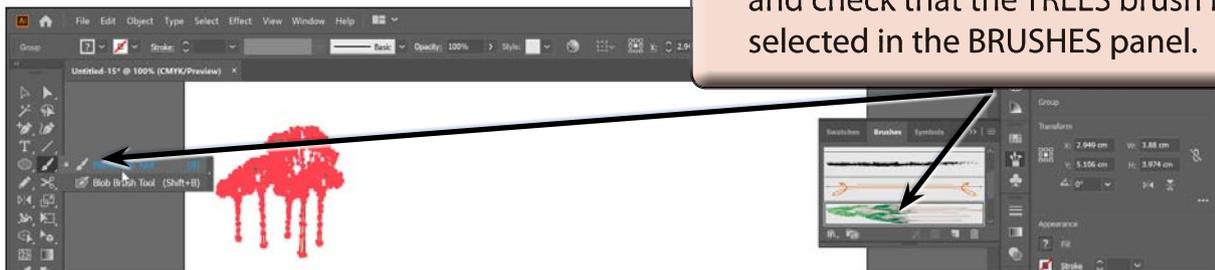2 Expand the BRUSHES panel and select the NEW BRUSH icon.

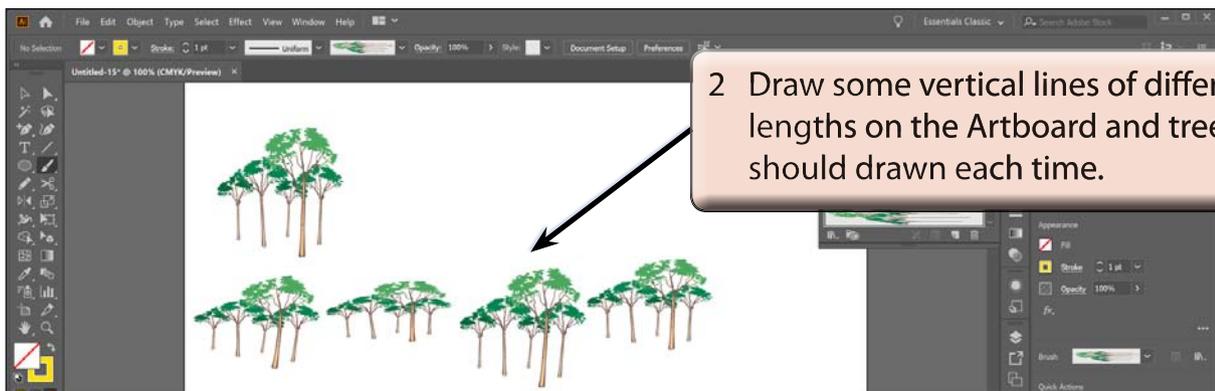3 In the NEW BRUSH dialogue box select ART BRUSH and select OK.

4 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.

2 Draw some vertical lines of different lengths on the Artboard and trees should drawn each time.

NOTE: i **You can hold down the SHIFT key as you drag the vertical lines to ensure that the trees are vertical.**

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.

1 Press CTRL+Z or COMMAND+Z until all the painted trees are removed. The original symbol should be still selected.

2 Click on the NEW BRUSH icon at the base of the BRUSHES panel.