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**Convert Photos to Pencil Drawings and Watercolors with AKVIS Sketch. Quick Preview Window Added.**

*AKVIS announces the release of AKVIS Sketch v.8.0. The software converts photos to realistic pencil and watercolor drawings. The new version includes a Quick Preview window that saves you time when fine-tuning the settings.*

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA, October 12, 2008 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- AKVIS Sketch is an award-winning program for conversion of photos into pencil sketches and watercolor drawings. Make any photo look like a B&W or color drawing, imitate the technique of graphite or color pencil, charcoal or watercolor painting.

The program works in an entertaining way. It allows observing the conversion of a photo into a drawing/watercolor in real time and even interrupting the process when the required result is achieved.

Some special effects included in the program can convert an ordinary photo into a piece of art. Create a blend of a drawing and a photo; imitate motion or add "time machine effect" by swirling the background. Put an accent to certain parts of the image by blurring the rest of it in an artistic way. It proves especially useful when the final drawing contains too many details on the background that divert attention.

Many photo editing enthusiasts have already appreciated the Sketch' s features. Take a look at a gallery of examples (many created by users) at <http://akvis.com/en/sketch/examples-pencil-drawing.php>

Version 8.0 includes a Quick Preview window for resource-saving fine-tuning of the settings. Now one does not need to process the whole image to see the result of adjustments. The movable Quick Preview window shows the result of the current settings on a small sample in real-time.

The new version supports the Exif and IPTC data to the full extent and ensures that the additional information registered by the camera (shooting date, exposure settings, etc) as well as information and comments to the photo filled out by the user won't get lost or altered.

Sketch can be useful on many occasions. Surprise your friends and relatives by presenting them their pencil portraits. Make a watercolor drawing out of a photo from your last nature shooting to decorate your room. Convert your own photo into a color sketch to print on a T-shirt. Create a comic out of your party videos.

The program can be helpful to designers who need to quickly bring images to one style for a web-site or an advertisement booklet.

AKVIS Sketch has a simple interface with a few sliders. At first you can process the image with the default settings and then touch up the photo adding color, or trying different techniques - from pencil to charcoal or watercolor. You can make the hatching denser or finer and change the pitch angle of strokes. After that, you can apply a texture to imitate a painting on a canvas.

For a free trial, AKVIS offers 10 days of fully functional use. Details are available at <http://akvis.com/en/sketch/index.php>