

# Better Blogging for Artists

*Reference sheet for creating a blog-powered portfolio*

## WordPress

Free, open-source software to power a blog & portfolio on your server

**Domain Registration:** (where to buy your domain)

[GoDaddy.com](http://GoDaddy.com)

Most hosting services offer domain name registration as well (see below)

**Hosting Services:**

[WordPress Hosting Sponsors](#)

[CNET's Hosting Guide](#)

[GoDaddy.com](http://GoDaddy.com)

[Lunarpages.com](http://Lunarpages.com)

[Bluehost.com](http://Bluehost.com)

**Most Popular Free Blogging Services:**

[Blogger](#)

[Wordpress.com](#) (a free limited, yet hosted, version of WordPress)

[LiveJournal](#)

[Windows Live Spaces](#)

[Yahoo!360](#)

**Free Online Portfolio Services:** (free services often contain ads & restrictions)

[ArtistPortfolio.net](#) (free)

[Voodoochilli](#) (free)

[d-ART: d'Galleries at Fine-Art.com](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[AbsoluteArts.com](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[MyArtSpace](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[FineArtAmerica](#) (free, pay for sales service)

[Artist-Listing](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[MosaicGlobe](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[723 - Online Art Community](#) (free & \$\$\$)

[MobileMe](#) (only free if you are already paying for the service)

[Reviews of several free portfolio sites](#)

## Useful WordPress Plugins:

[Google Analytics for Wordpress](#) - easily sets your blog up with Google Analytics  
[ShareThis](#) or [AddThis](#) - adds a button to every post & page with links to publish to dozens of social networking sites  
[Headspace2 SEO](#) – helps to make your site automatically more search engine friendly  
[Google XML Sitemaps](#) - creates a Google-friendly sitemap and updates it auto  
[Cforms II](#) or [Contact Form7](#) - adds a customizable "Contact Me" form to your site  
[Lightbox2](#) - makes linked images popup in an overlay window  
[NextGen Gallery](#) - the best gallery plugin for display lots of albums of photos  
[WPTouch iPhone Theme](#) - makes your website iPhone friendly  
[Twitme](#) - automatically publishes your posts to your Twitter account  
[MySpace Auto Crossposter](#) - automatically publishes posts to your MySpace account  
[WordPress Email Notification Plugin](#) - lets users subscribe to a mailing list

## Useful Articles about Blogging for Artists:

[Artists Who Blog](#) - features and interviews artists with a strong online presence so they can share their tips, tricks, and testimonials  
[Getting Your Art Online](#)  
[2006 USAToday article on blogging for artists](#)  
[Why Music on Your \[Art\] Website is a bad idea](#)

## Find WordPress Themes:

[Official WordPress Themes directory](#)  
Smashing Magazine – [Portfolio themes](#) and [100 & 83](#) other great designs lists  
WPZoom – [Wordpress portfolio examples & themes](#)  
[WPSnap](#) – WordPress themes & all things blog related  
[WordPress Themes: Best of the Best](#) – another collection of themes

## Major Search Engines' Submission Forms:

[Google](#)

[Yahoo!](#)

[MSN Search](#)

## Web Traffic Tools

[Google Analytics](#)

[Google Webmaster Tools](#)

[Feedburner](#)

[Google Alerts](#)

## Artist Directories to Submit to:

[The Open Directory Project](#)

[Yahoo! Directory](#)

[The Pauper's Artist Directory](#)

[Published.com](#)

[Studio Arts - Online Directory of Local Artists](#)