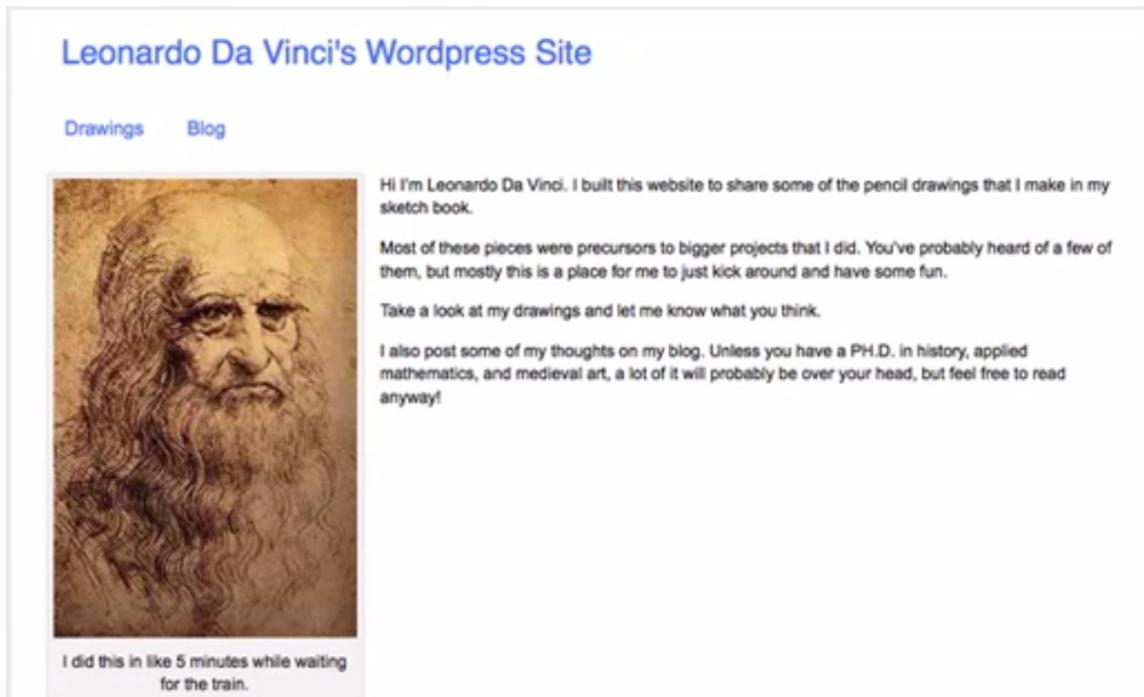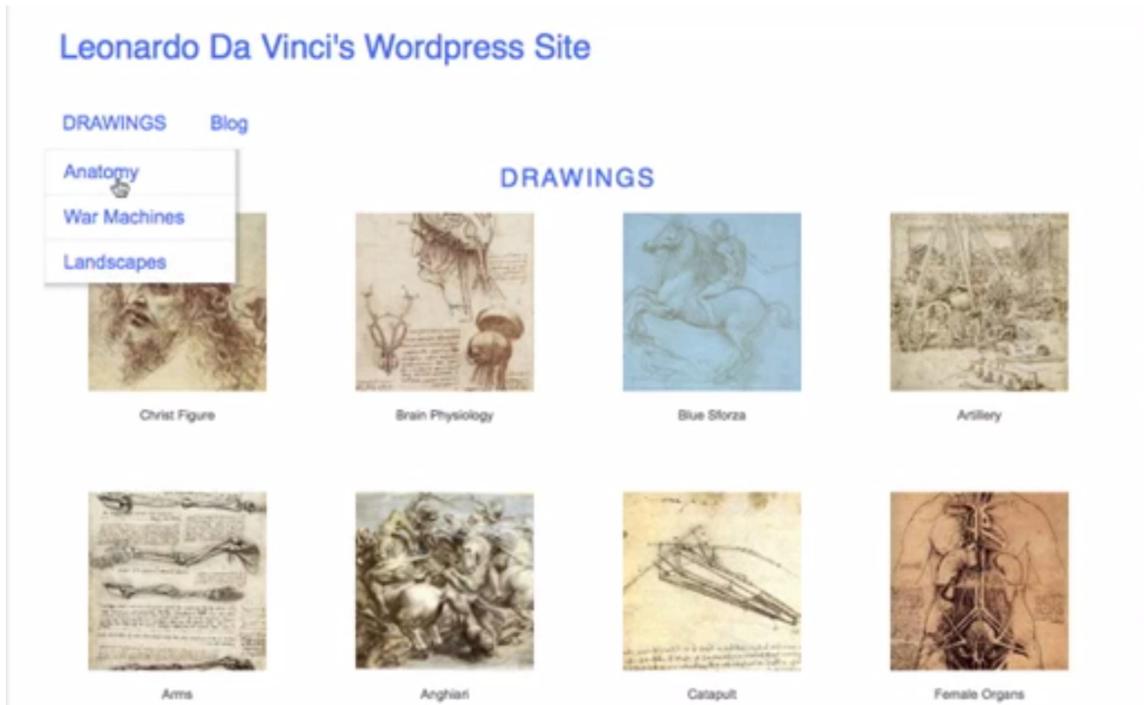# Building an Artist Website with Wordpress

Today I want to show you how easy it is to create an artist website using a piece of software called WordPress. And we're going to do it in just a few minutes. The example that you have in front of you here is an example website that I put together based on Leonardo DaVinci's work.

You can see there's a nice little home page with with his picture and some text about Leonardo DaVinci. And then the really cool thing is this gallery. So you can see that, you can see all of Leonardo DaVinci's drawings here on this page. You'll see that there's a drop down menu with different categories of his drawings. And if we click on one of these drawings here, you'll see that there's space next to it for text and you can actually navigate

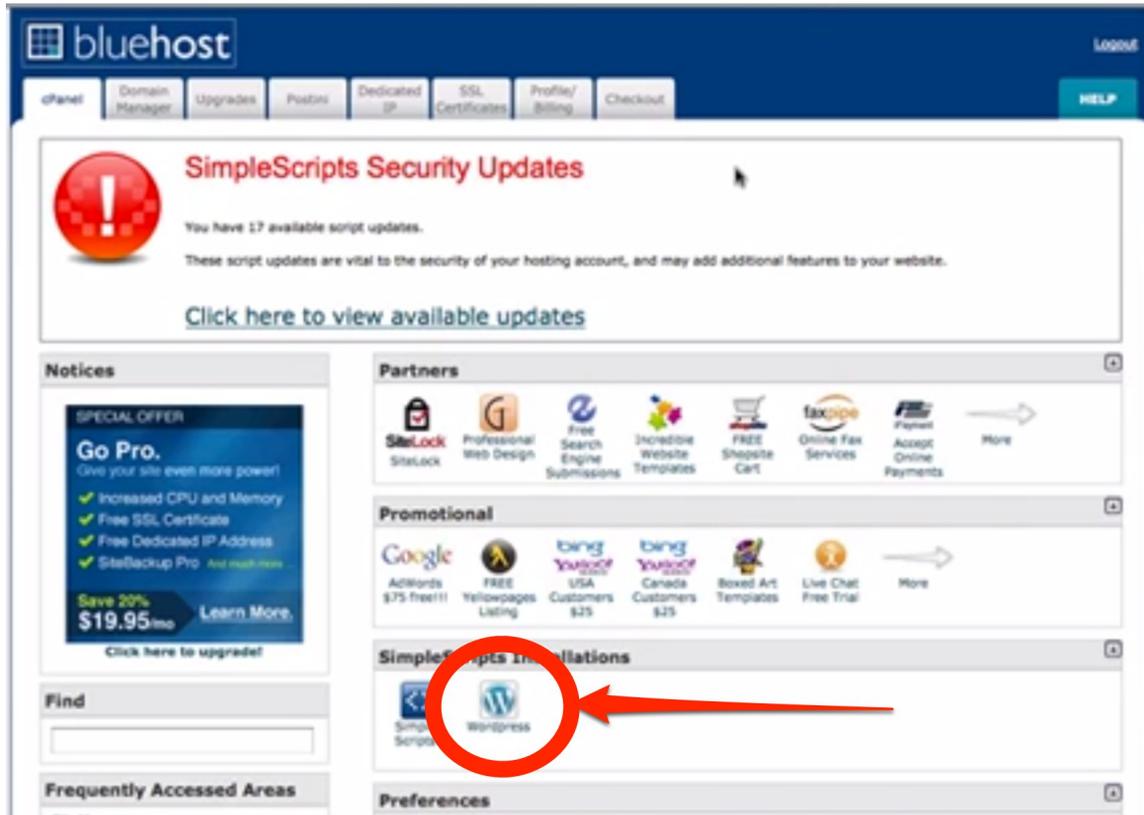from image to image. This is pretty sexy stuff.

The first thing that we have to do is we have to sign up for web hosting.

If you already have a web host then you can skip ahead a little bit but I recommend
http://www.bluehost.com/. **Blue host is very cheap, $5 a month**. Once you go to Blue Host
and you sign up and log in, you should see a screen that looks like this one here. (*btw, that
link pays me a small affiliate commission if you sign up. I'm eating the same dogfood.
I use Bluehost for some of my own sites*)

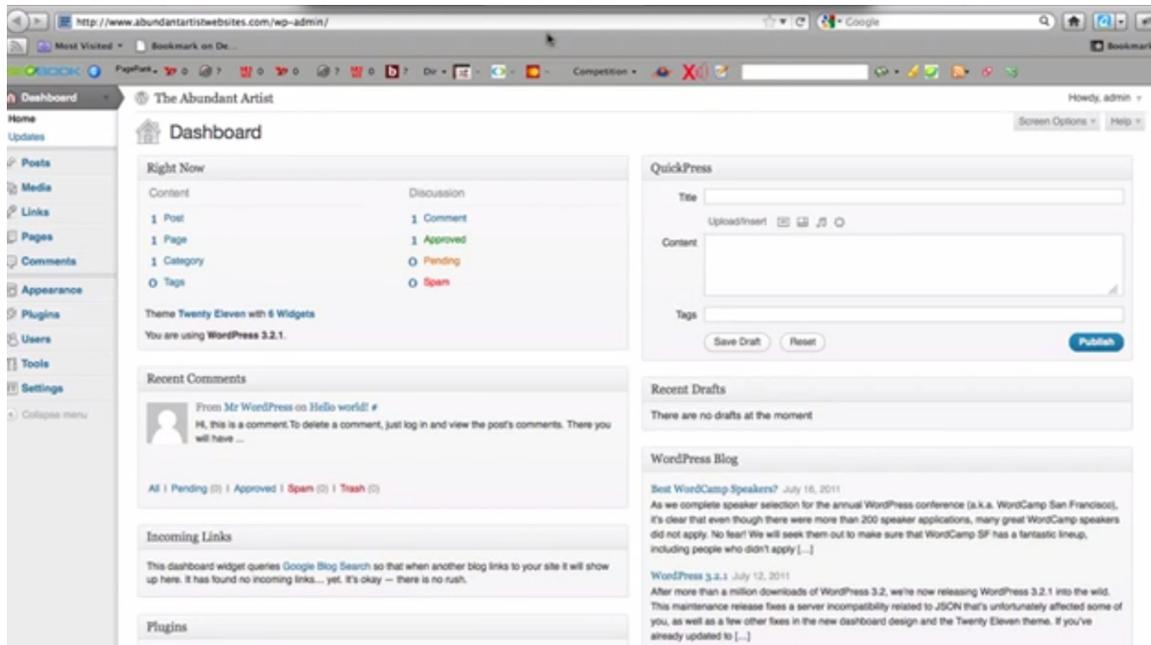Cory Huff | www.theabundantartist.com | cory@theabundantartist.com

Bluehost has a really simple install mechanism for WordPress.

Right here, you just **click WordPress** and you should get a screen that looks like this with your domain names. And you **scroll down and click "install" and pick the domain name that you want to install it on.** Pick your password, say "I have read the terms and conditions" and click "complete", and you wait for it to finish.

After Installing Wordpress

You'll get to Log In screen like this one, and go ahead and put in your password and you'll get this screen here. This is the WordPress dashboard.

Now to see what your site looks like now because you actually have a site now, something very simple like this, plain and boring, we are going to jazz it up and **create that gallery** that we showed you at the top of the video.

We're going to upload a new theme. The **themes control how your website looks**. And for this instance we are going to use **a free theme called** [wpfolio](http://). Search inside the themes section and click "install". You can also download the theme and upload it through the theme section in your dashboard.

The way we are going to add the art so that it shows up in the gallery is through posts.

Click "add new". Go ahead and type the title of your artwork here. And we are going to save "set featured image" and hit "select" from your desktop and we are going to say "use as featured image" and we are also going to "insert this image" into the post itself. And what this will do is the featured image will create a thumbnail and the image in the post itself will create a larger image for people to view. Here you have the opportunity to put any text that you want and you could talk about your inspiration for this piece of work. And another important thing is we are going to add categories to this piece so that you can get that drop down menu.

So we need to create a parent category. So we'll call this parent category drawings. And then we are going to create a subcategory. And we'll say this is War Images and we'll make it a child category of the drawings and say hide new category. All right. Then we click "publish". And you are going to do this a couple more times. Ok now we have a small collection of artwork. And if you refresh the page you'll see that the site has just published the pieces of art on the page.

Now we are going to make it look more like a website and less like a blog.

The first thing that we're going to do is we're going to **create a new page**. This new page we are going to call "home". This home page is going to be where you put a little bit about yourself. And you publish that page.

The next thing we're going to do is we're create another page called "blog" and leave it blank and then under "Reading", we select "static page" and "home" will be the front page and the posts will all appear on your blog page. Now this is going to change the site pretty dramatically.

So you notice that there on the home page is the home page that we created and if you click "blog" you'll see all of the images that you uploaded. Now how do we get that gallery? This is where we get pretty slick.

Go to "appearance", "menus", and **we're going to create a custom menu**. We're going to call it "name menu". And then we're going to add the "blog" and the "home page" to that menu. We're also going to add all of the categories of our art to that menu. And make sure that you drag the art categories over a little bit so that they are subcategories to the drawings and we say "save menu". I actually want to rearrange the order of that menu. After you have created your menu over here on the left you are going to choose that menu hit save and

refresh your page again. You'll see that the menu has changed and if you mouse over the drawings you'll see that you've got a drop down menu, click on drawings and you have got a gallery.

Voila, you're done! Now customize it even more.

You can create all sorts of different looks, you can make these thumbnails larger, you can change colors, and you can change themes so that your look is totally different. For example if I were to keep going and experimenting with different templates I might try Full Screen Template, and by adding more artwork and changing to a different template I get something like this or by changing to the F8 Template I get something like this. These are some great examples of how you can use WordPress to create your own artist website and have it look exactly the way you want it to look. There's a very in depth guide to WordPress on ArtEmpowers.me, where you can sign up for the WordPress course as well as a series of courses on how to market your art online. Let me know if you have any questions.