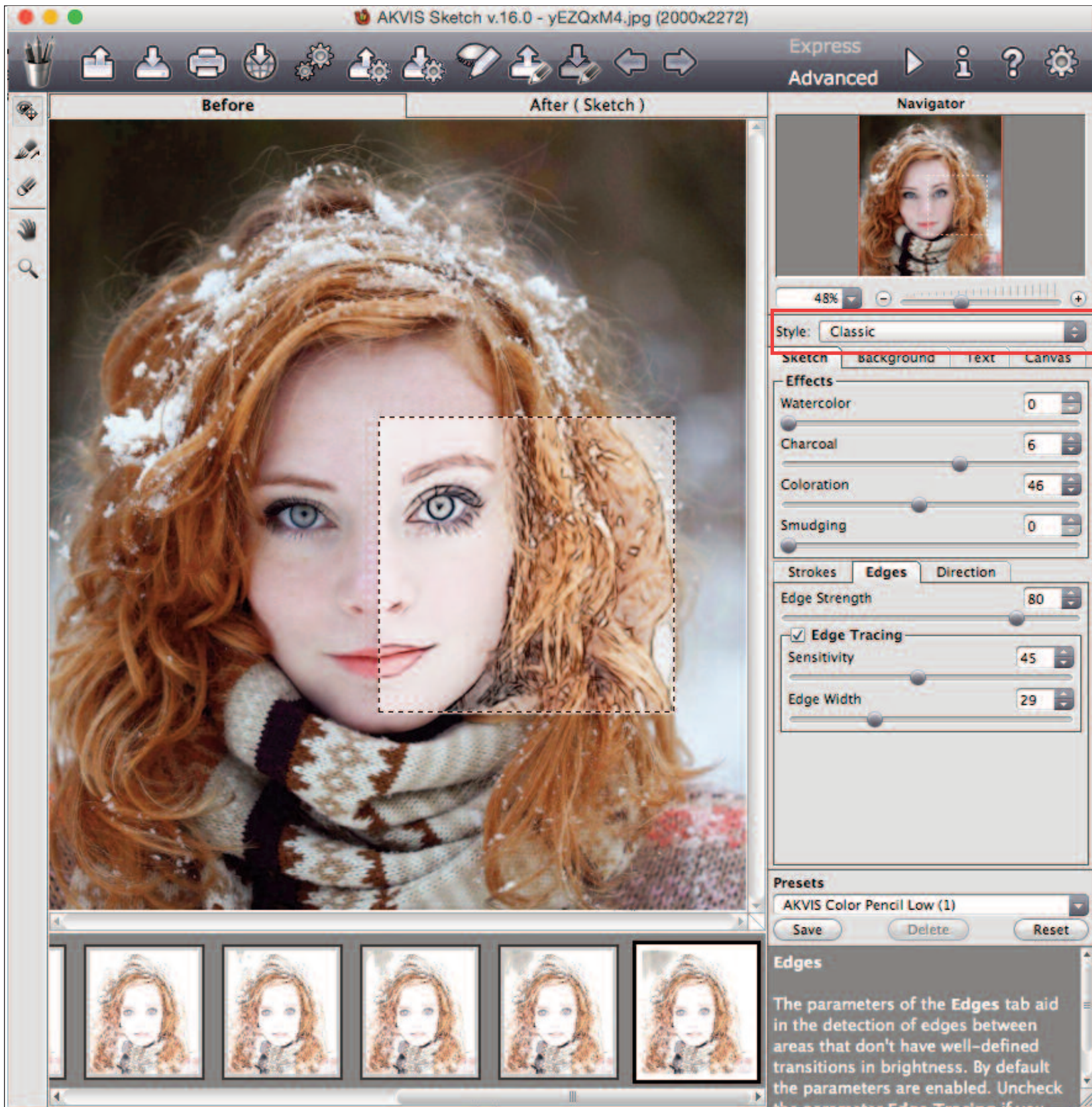# AKVIS Sketch 16
Huge New Update for Sketch

AKVIS has really done it this time: the new release of Sketch 16 in November marks a phenomenal leap forward in "push-button" image editing. As the name implies, Sketch lets you create a wide range of styles of color drawings and sketches from your digital images. Adjusting the settings, it's also possible to add some painting effects like watercolor, pastel, and charcoal to the pictures.

The program can operate in **Express** and **Advanced** modes with two main drawing styles, **Classic** and **Artistic**, each with its own multitude of controls and an impressively large number of ready-to-use Presets. The Sketch window, shown below, gives an idea of how it all comes together: import a photo and click on a Preset (**Classic** has 35 distinct Presets) and then fine tune the image by using the Tools and Effects sliders to achieve the final form. Even more than any other AKVIS title, Sketch will suck the user into clicking on Presets and exploring the possib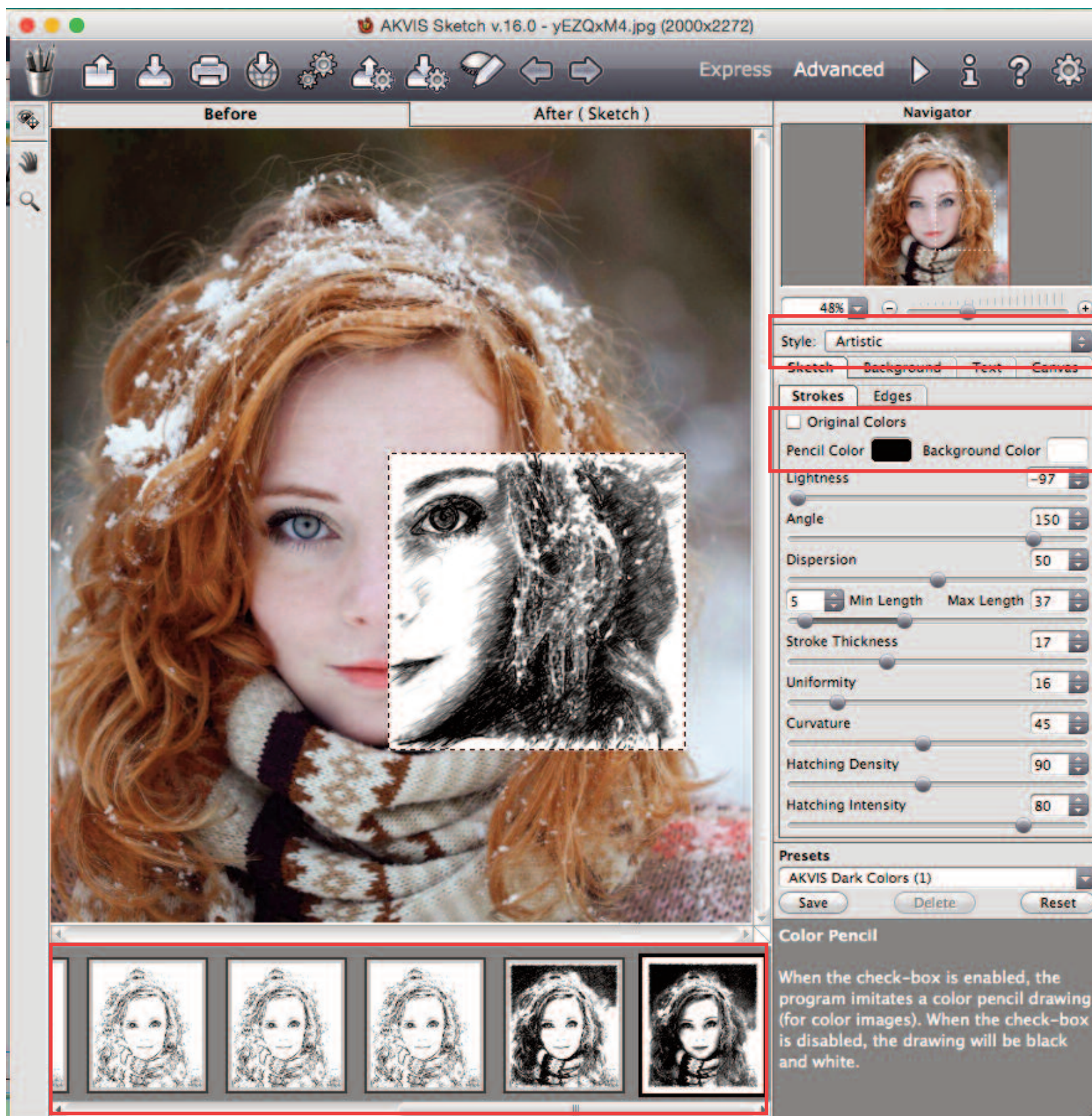ilities. You have to see it to believe it. The software makes your photos look like real drawings or paintings done in your choice hundreds of styles - and the best part is you don't need to have any artistic ability to use it. If you can click a button and drag a slider you are all set.
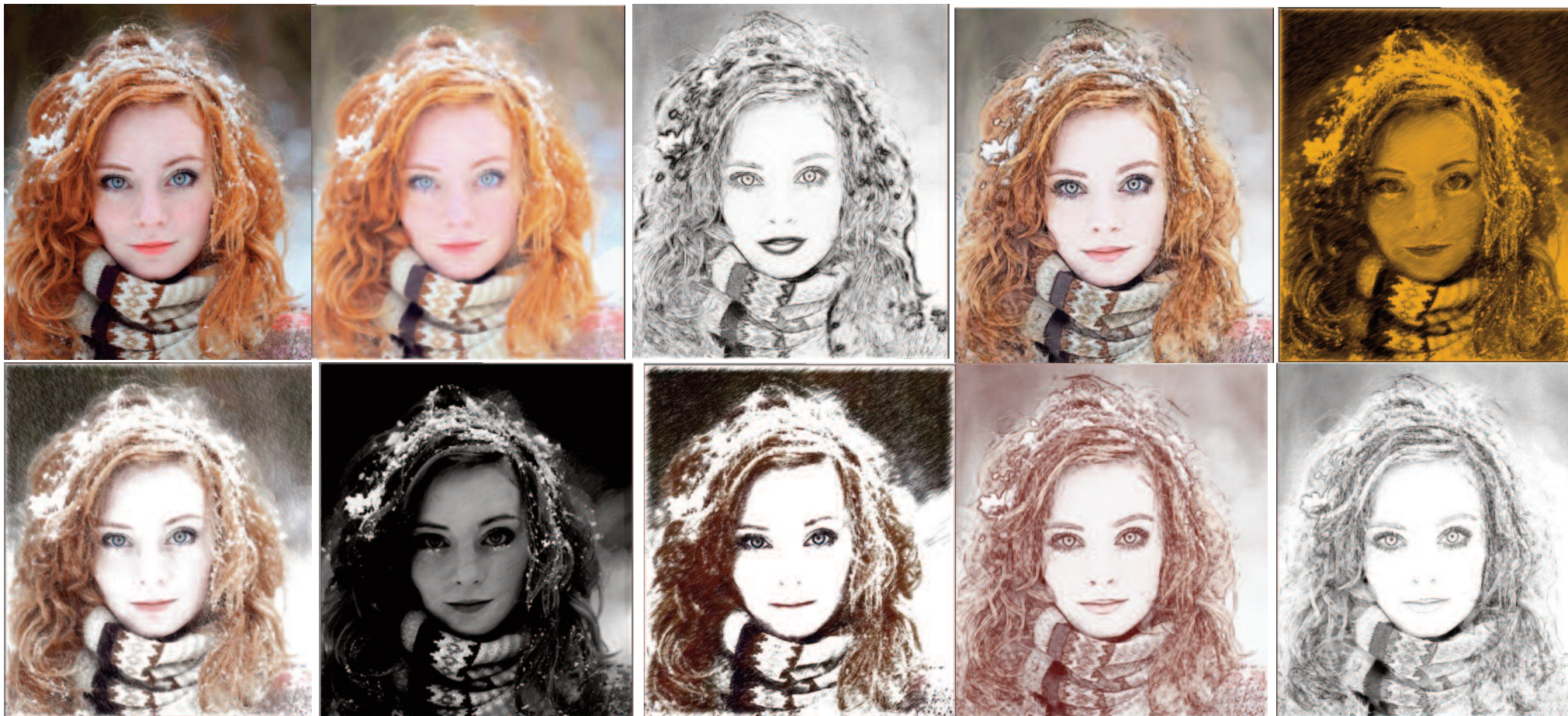
The window below shows Sketch in the **Artistic** style. In this mode there are 49 Presets, some of them are a bit more extreme and dramatic than the Classic presets. Worth mentioning is that this mode also allows the user to keep the original colours or to totally remove the colour from an image and choose any pencil crayon colour (black is shown below) to shade the image. As in the Classic mode, the program provides a floating preview window over part of the image that gives an instantly updated sample of what you can expect from the Preset.

At the bottom of the application window the program shows the various steps along the way are shown below the main image window. It is possible to revert to any step just by clicking on it. In the **Advanced** mode there is a selection of useful tools available that make it possible to apply the Preset effects selectively, just on some or all objects in the foreground - or, depending upon how the tool is used, just the background or objects in the background.

But wait: there's more. In Advanced mode there is a Canvas setting which opens up a library of about 150 textured surfaces that can be selected and then adjusted to give the effect of the sketch having been done on various cloth or other materials with variable degrees of coarsenes. Once a canvas selected, a virtual light source can be adjusted (angle and intensity) to accentuate the depth and give more or less contrast to the texture.

For those of you who may want to retain control of your images, Sketch provides several ways to watermark the images you create with it. There is a Text panel that makes it possible to over-print the final image with text in any location, size, font, or colour. The Text panel also offers the optional ability to over-print the image using a logo instead of text if you happen to have one handy. With the text and logo you can also control the level of transparency.

As with the other AKVIS titles, AKVIS invites all interested parties to download a free fully-featured copy of Sketch 16 and use it on an unlimited number of images for ten days before deciding whether or not to purchase it. During those ten days you can access the online tutorials and learn to do everything a registered user can do - and save the changes to all of your images.

See www.AKVIS.com for more information about this and the other AKVIS titles and download a few to try out. You will be amazed at what you can do with your pictures, a little time, and AKVIS software.

Submitted by Michael Shaw