Adobe Firefly

Firefly Image Model 4 Guide

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Master new Firefly image models and maximize your creativity.

When you choose Adobe Firefly, you get an all-in-one creative AI solution, built for limitless ideation and control.

Setting a new standard for visual content generation, our newest models of the Firefly family, Image Model 4 and Image Model 4 Ultra, deliver unmatched definition and realism for images. Plus, you'll always create confidently knowing it's commercially safe. Firefly models are trained only on content we have permission to use — including Adobe Stock, public domain, and licensed material.

Ease of use is just as important to us as the quality of the generated content. So we've created this detailed guide to help you leverage commands that fit your needs, select subjects our models excel at, and refine your prompt to get exactly what you want — pushing your creative potential to new heights.

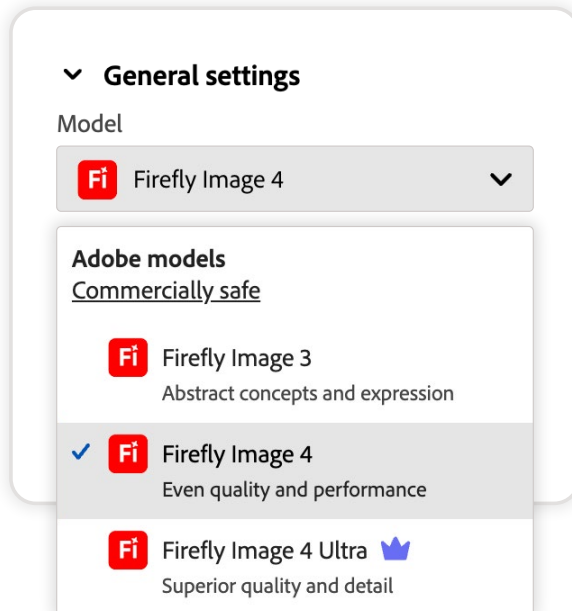# How to choose between Image Model 4 and Image Model 4 Ultra.

Image Model 4: A fast tool for everyday needs.

Generate simple, high-quality content like illustrations, icons, photos of basic objects, single subject portraits, and images of individual animals — checking off 90% of your typical creative requirements with speed.

Image Model 4 Ultra: Your go-to for realism and detail.

Handle complex needs with ease — rendering photorealistic scenes, human portraits, and medium groups. As this tool prioritizes precision over speed, it's ideal for your highest-end creative needs.

Tips for selecting the subject of your image.

Ready to pick your subject? Choose anything from a single person or animal, an object, architecture, an abstract background, a landscape, and more. Use the grid below to see which model works best for what you have in mind.

Note: The best results are achieved when choosing images of a single subject. We are finessing the capabilities for you to achieve high-quality results for medium and large groups of people, people in action, and complex text renderings. We'll update this guide as our model capabilities evolve.

Image	Description	Image Model 4	Image Model 4 Ultra
	Landscapes	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Seasonal background with space for copy	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Abstract background	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Single object or simple food	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Single animal	★★★★	★★★★★
	Single human portrait	★★★★	★★★★★
	Simple text rendering	★★★	★★★★
	Medium group of humans	★★	★★★

How to make the most out of Firefly Image 4.

Prompting: Get descriptive and receive detailed results.

Prompting a generative AI model involves clearly describing the image you have in mind. Generative AI takes your prompt literally, illustrating each and every one of the words of your prompt to allow for more creative control.

Before typing your prompt, just visualize the image you want to generate, then describe it precisely, with as many factual details as needed.

General guidelines

✏️ Be descriptive

Describe the subject, context, background, perspective, colors, atmosphere, light, and style. Avoid using words like "generate" or "create", instead opt for precise language with at least three words that include a subject, descriptor, and keywords.

Tip: To make your image more engaging, mention words that evoke emotions. Use words like *love*, *gentle*, and *playful* to generate a heartwarming image, or *powerful*, *strong*, and *uplifting* to create an inspiring one.

💬 It's not a conversation

Firefly image models do not work like chatbots — they output images based on a single prompt.

🖼️ Guide the model

Leverage the controls available, so that the model will give you exactly what you pictured. This could even include uploading your own art to use as reference.

🔄 Iterate and further refine with your favorite Creative Cloud applications

Like in all creative endeavors, working with Firefly Image 4 and Image 4 Ultra is an iterative process and it might take a few tries before you get exactly what you want. To further refine your image and complete your project, bring it into your favorite Creative Cloud application, such as Photoshop, Illustrator, or Express.

PROMPTING

Prompting formula

What's the secret to strong prompting? Including as many of the
following elements as possible. The more you add, the more precise
the results. We've included examples to help you pinpoint what
you're visualizing.

[Image type] An illustration, a magazine-style image, or a panoramic image.

[Subject] An animal, a person, a building. (Don't forget to describe the person's
features, feelings in their facial expression, a building's architectural style,
an animal's size, etc…)

[Action] Walking, jumping, flying.

[Angle] Portrait, side profile, landscape shot.

[Lighting] Soft light, dark, exposed.

[Background] Butterflies flying in the background, a soft focus background, context.

[Color palette] Warm tones, pastels, black and white.

[Style] Cinematic, realism, hyper-realistic photography, product feature, atmosphere.

*Anything else you include, like the camera lens type, the settings used
to take the photo, and more, is helpful in getting you closer to what you
are picturing.

Examples

Animals

Twilight portrait [image type] of a snow-flecked Himalayan snow leopard [subject] poised on a jagged granite outcrop [action], icy breath visible in the crisp mountain air; the sinking sun casts a cool blue-violet ambiance while a warm rim-light skims the feline's dense spotted fur, revealing intricate texture and piercing steel-blue eyes [context]. Shot on a full-frame DSLR [frame], 300 mm prime [lens], f/4, ISO 320, 1/2000 s [light settings on camera], capturing pin-sharp detail, subtle color contrast between cold shadows and amber highlights [colors], and a rugged, National-Geographic-style wilderness aesthetic [style].

A polar bear [subject] walking across ice floes [action] in the Arctic in the evening with sun in the back [background, time of the day, atmosphere]

Illustrations

Art illustration [image type] *of a moonlit jungle clearing where luminous giant mushrooms tower over a lone wanderer* [subject] *in a crimson cloak , fireflies tracing golden spirals through misty air* [context]*; illustrated as a rich digital painting with painterly brush-work* [style]*, soft rim-lighting, and deep teal-violet shadows* [light] *for a dreamy, storybook fantasy mood* [atmosphere]*.*

Illustration [image type] *of a giant fantasy monster made of clouds and mist* [subject] *rampaging through a modern city* [action]*, dramatic perspective, detailed illustration, vibrant colors, cinematic lighting, anime-inspired style* [style]*, dynamic action, people running, blue sky with fluffy clouds* [context]*.*

Portraits

A portrait [image type] *of children* [subject] *enjoying their summer holiday while playing games* [action] *outside with big smiles on their faces* [facial expressions]*, surrounded by nature* [background]*.*

hyper-realistic [style]*, an Asian woman in her mid 40s with a couple age lines* [subject]*, hand to her face in front of an oval framed mirror on the wall* [pose]*, she is looking at a reflection of herself* [action]*. The reflection is her with smoother skin and she looks happy* [feelings]*.*

Architecture

Architectural magazine image [image type] *of a very modern building* [subject] *beside a pond* [context].

A luxurious Mediterranean-style villa with terracotta roof tiles, arched wooden doors, and white stucco walls [subject]. *The house is set on a hillside overlooking the sea, with a stone-paved terrace, an infinity pool reflecting the sunset, and lush bougainvillea framing the entrance* [context].

Landscapes

An avalanche [subject] *rushing down a forest mountain, burying a winding road below* [action]*, snow clouds billowing and sunlight filtering through the trees* [context]*, 35mm film grain* [texture]*, cinematic snow realism* [style]*, no people, motion freeze* [context]*, cold analog film tone* [color palette] [light]*, epic landscape shot* [angle]*.*

Pre-dawn panorama [image type] *of jagged granite peaks looming over a mirror-still turquoise glacial lake* [subject]*, low fog wisping across wildflower-strewn alpine meadows, sky igniting with fiery magenta-to-gold sunrise hues* [context] *long-exposure HDR* [photography technique] *for razor-sharp detail, rich tonal contrast* [light]*, and an epic, cinematic sweep* [atmosphere]

Objects

A bottle of olive oil [subject] *photographed on rustic wood with a torn linen cloth, fresh herbs and garlic subtly arranged* [context]*, golden light from the side enhancing texture* [light]*, shot like a gourmet product feature* [style]

A designer lipstick with a velvet red bullet [subject]*, standing upright on a reflective black acrylic surface* [position]*, surrounded by broken rose petals* [context]*, moody light vignette and sharp high-contrast highlights* [light]

Controls: Guide the Image Model.

Now that you've learned a few tips to write good prompts, leverage the controls that best fit your needs — so you can reinforce the intention you described in your prompt, add visual references, and select a specific style or composition.

Visual intensity slider

The visual intensity slider controls the aesthetics of the image.

Keep the cursor all the way on the left if you want an unedited, snapshot-like result.

Bring the slider to the right for a more stylized and tuned image. There are nine levels between the two extremes on the slider, play with them to find the level that best suits your needs.

Animals

Prompt: *A polar bear walking across ice floes in the Arctic in the early morning with sun in the back.*
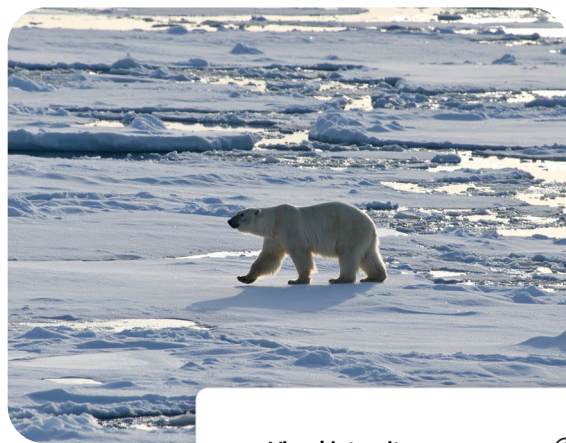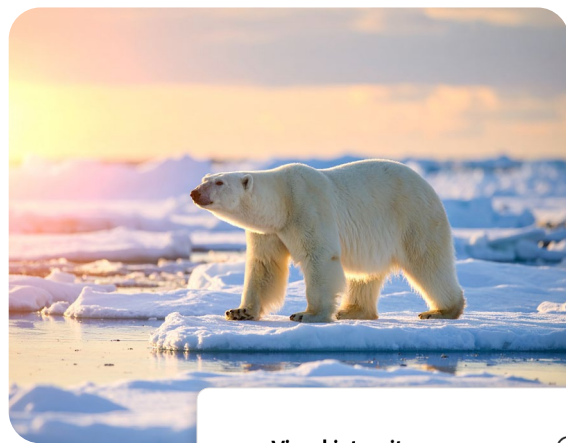
Portraits

Prompt: *A close-up studio portrait photo of a 60-year-old woman with short gray hair, modern haircut, haze eyes, thin nose and fair complexion. Fine wrinkles around the eyes and the mouth. She wears a stylish pair of sight glasses with thick electric blue frame and an ivory silk blouse. She is happy and self-confident. Soft box light and backlit flair on gray background.*
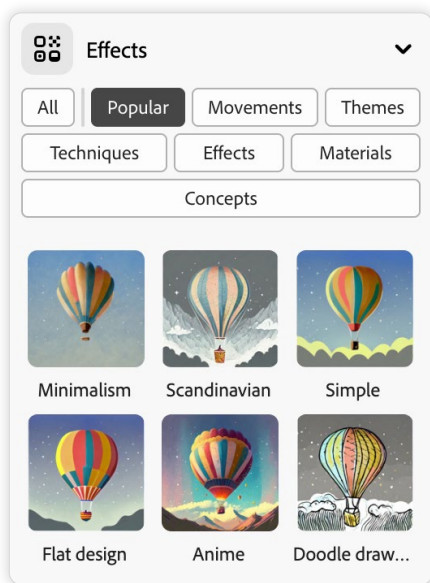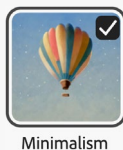
Effects

This control is a productivity booster. If you are unsure about which words to use to specify in the prompt for the light, texture, and the art type you want to achieve, you can simply select the Effect that best corresponds to your needs.
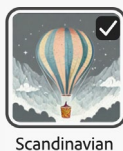
Pro tip: Try the **Scandinavian, Minimalism, and Simple effects to explore beautiful variations on** photorealistic images.

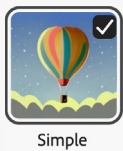## Examples of Effects applied to the same prompt.

Prompt: *Minimalistic picture of a man riding a bicycle in the street. Shot from the side. The building behind him is light yellow. The light is flat.*
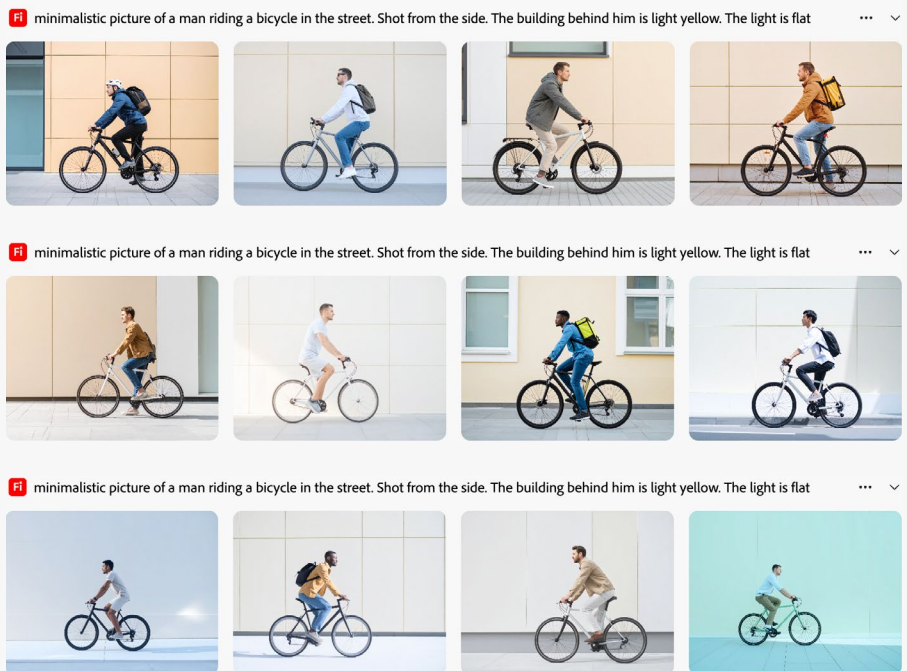
Reinforce in the prompt the Effect you want to achieve.

Prompt: *Simple Line Doodle* [**reinforce the effect in the prompt**] *of a monster made out of clouds stomping through buildings at dawn.*
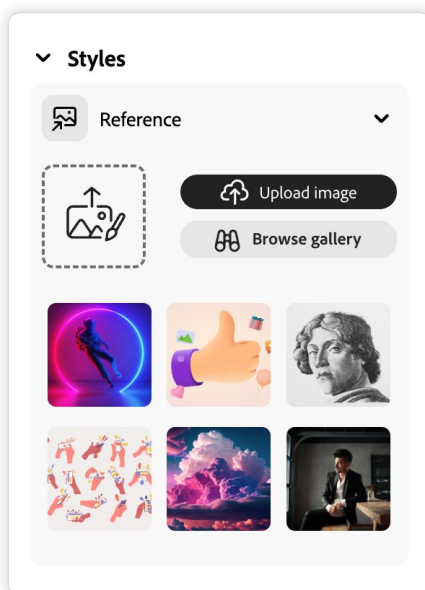
Doodle draw...

Simple line doodle of a monster made out of clouds stomping through buildings in a city at dawn

Style references

If you have a specific style in mind but are unsure about how to describe it in the prompt, select one of the Style references from the image gallery or upload your own image as a Style reference.

Styles

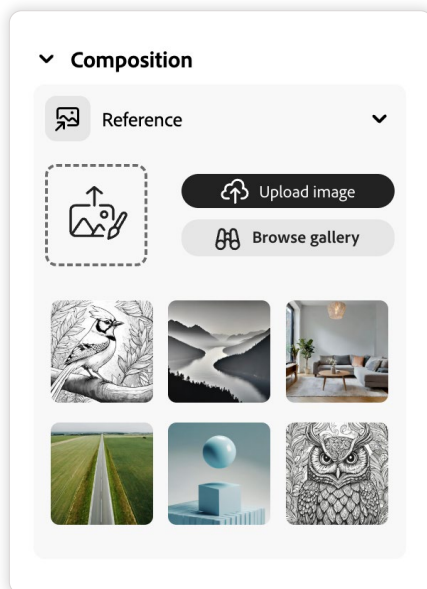Reference

Upload image

Browse gallery

Example

Explore multiple variations on the same prompt applying different Style references. The images below were generated using the same prompt (below) and playing with the Style references available in the interface.

Prompt: *A race truck in mid-drifting brake turns atop cliff plateau, canary-yellow chassis sliding sideways at 45-degree angle, massive dust clouds erupting from locked tires, suspension fully articulated under centrifugal force, two drivers leaning against inertia visible through dust-streaked windshield, golden sunset backlighting the swirling debris like liquid metal. Huge puff of dust.*
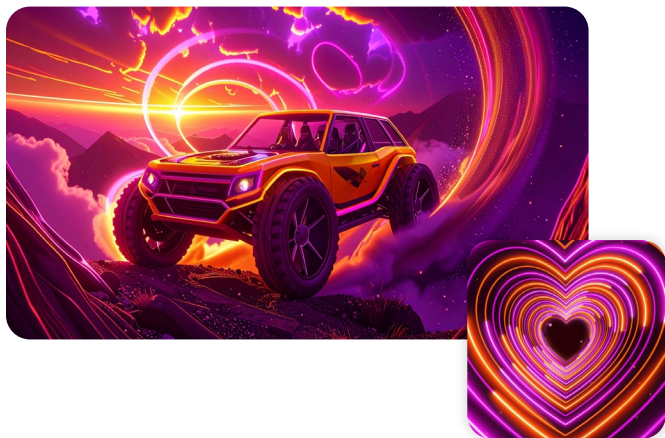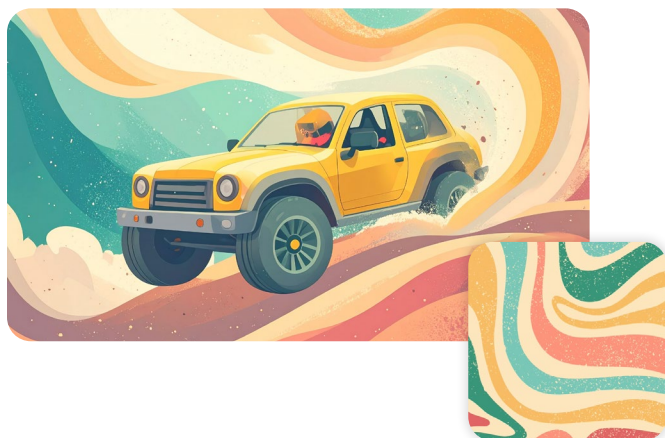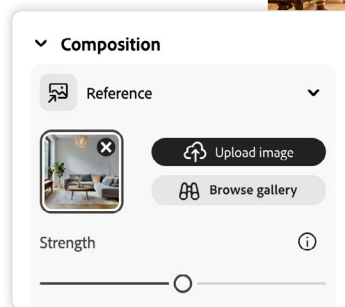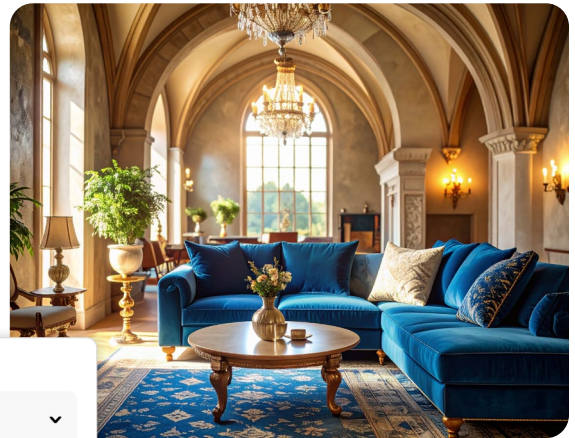
Composition references

You can also guide the model by being specific about the composition you have in mind. You can either select a composition type from the image gallery or upload your own composition reference.

Prompt: *Sun-drenched castle salon with vaulted stone arches, sapphire velvet sofas around a carved marble fireplace, crystal chandelier glinting over inlaid parquet and antique tapestries in regal elegance.*

## Apply both Composition and Style references.

Prompt: *Verdant alpine valley at dawn beneath swirling violet-rose clouds; river ribboned with mist, wildflower-dotted meadows and distant snow peaks aglow with dreamlike color.*
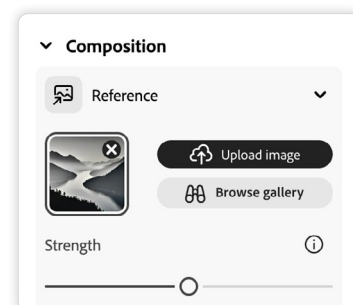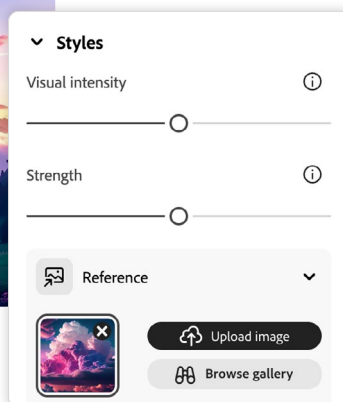
Upload your references

If you'd like to keep the structure or the style of your own image(s) but want to change the subject or other elements, upload your image(s) as a Composition and/or Style reference and then type a specific and detailed prompt about the image you want to see generated.
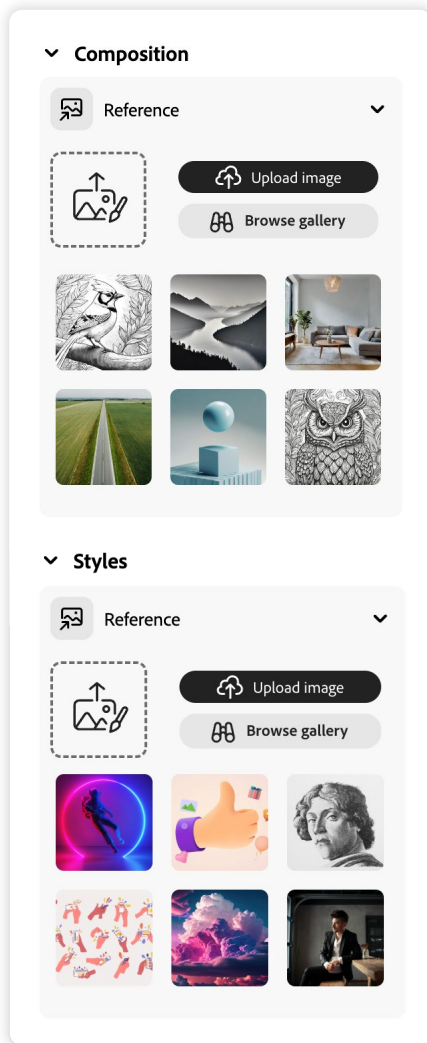
Example

Let's assume you want to make images of a tiger, and you really like the composition and the style of some photos of cats you've produced before.

You can upload one or multiple images as Style and/or Composition reference (depending on what you want to keep: The style of your image, the composition, or both) and then write your prompt.

Below are some examples of prompts and images generated with the cat images above, used both as Style and Composition references.

A high-resolution picture of a tiger mid-jump with dramatic lighting emphasizing its muscular form.


A cinematic photograph of a baby tiger jumping forward illuminated by gelled lights casting warm and cool tones with a smoky background adding intensity. Tiger on the right side of the image.

Further enhance the generated image with Creative Cloud.

Image Model 4 and Image Model 4 Ultra are great at generating stunning photorealistic and artistic images. If you wish, you can continue to refine the generated image by bringing it to Photoshop, Illustrator, Express, or other Creative Cloud apps you generally use in your work.

Example of workflow

1. Upload a photo of a mysterious landscape into Text to Image in Firefly to start generating multiple design variations with text prompts using Image Model 4.

2. Refine the design by using style reference and select visual intensity to match the desired aesthetic.

3. Visually refine further by selecting color and tone, lighting, and camera angle.

4. Create multiple variations, by selecting one and click Generate Similar.

5. You select one to further edit with Generative Fill/Generative Expand to match your desired aspect ratio and add elements to the composition.

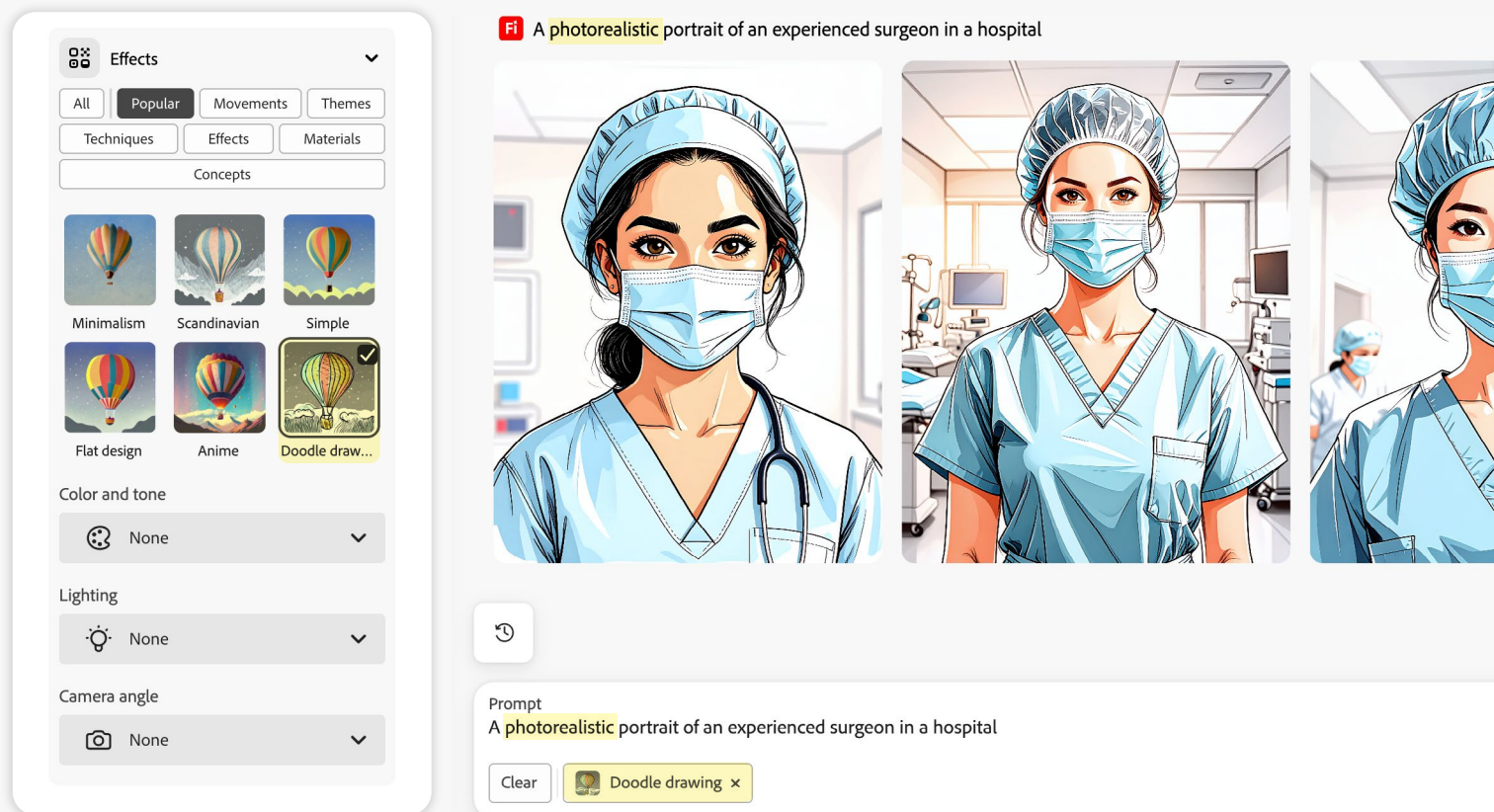**6.** Export these into Adobe Express/Photoshop/Illustrator to create the cover for a thriller novel.
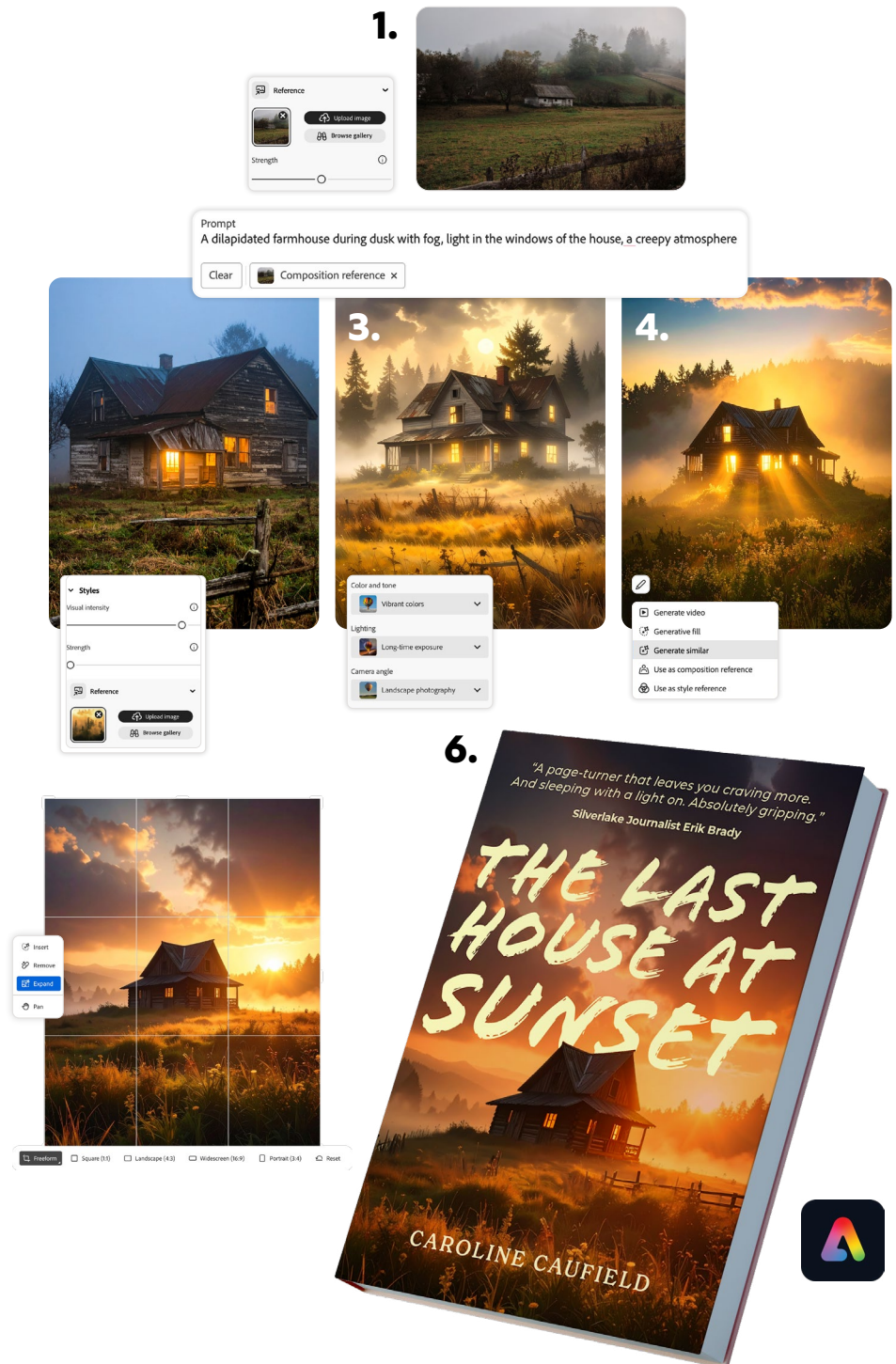
What to avoid.

Avoid working across purposes. Reinforce your intention across the control tools available.

Example
If you selected a cartoon art style from the control panel, make sure the prompt doesn't ask for a photorealistic image.

Get social.

Follow Adobe Firefly on social media for more tips on our image, video, vector and audio models.

We've included recommended creator accounts to follow for more tips on Firefly:

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Kris Kashtanova

📷 kris.kashtanova

🎵 @kriskashtanova

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