

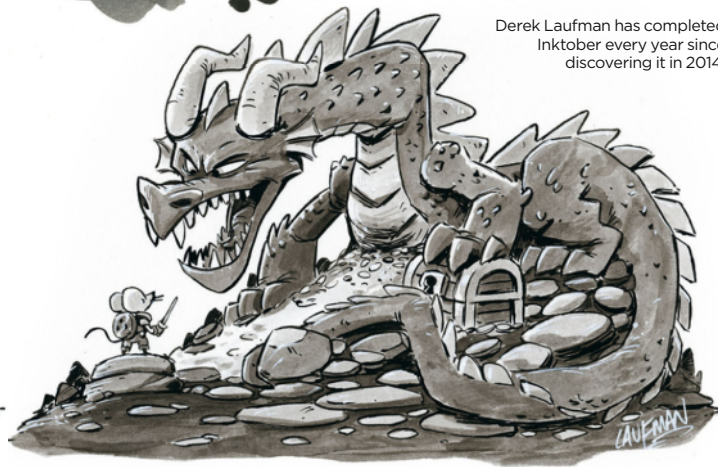
"When you make an ink stroke on paper you're committed," says Jake Parker. "It's a challenge, but it's also liberating."



Jake initially launched Inktober as a means of improving his Japanese brush pen technique.



Derek Laufman has completed Inktober every year since discovering it in 2014.



Happy 10th birthday Inktober!

Visible ink As the art challenge celebrates a milestone year in 2019, we get the low-down from the founder and contributors on just how Inktober has become so popular

This year marks the 10th birthday of Inktober, the art challenge that asks participants to create an ink drawing every day in October. To celebrate reaching double figures, 2019's event will feature competitions, with art supplies on offer as prizes.

What makes Inktober different from other challenges? "It was one of the few perennial art challenges to start before social media took a foothold in our culture," says founder **Jake Parker**.



"Its popularity rose as more and more people shared their art on places such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram."

"The digital age has spoiled us all with its endless possibilities, but

nothing can replace the feel of paper and the absolute concentration one needs when drawing with a real pen," adds regular participant **Alexa Pásztor**.



"The community aspect of the challenge is a great motivation and every year it feels like the most creative month," says artist **Daria Golab**. "I can't imagine October without Inktober."



“The community aspect of the Inktober challenge is a great motivation...”

Another positive thing about Inktober is its flexibility, with the focus on improving and forming positive habits. "I've never completed the challenge, but I always end up with a collection of drawings I feel proud of," says illustrator **Cathrine Sandmæl**. "I've even secured some client work because of them."



If you're going to aim for the full 31 drawings then you'll need to be organised. Jake suggests prepping your tools and drawing area in advance and sketching ideas in September, so October can be all about inking. "These drawings take anywhere from two to four hours,



Inktober provides Alexa Pásztor with the motivation to reconnect with traditional art tools.



"Most of my recent client work requires me to work in colour, but the Inktober challenge gives me a chance to switch it up for a bit," says Cathrine Sandmæl.



"Inktober is a great exercise in consistency, working faster, coming up with ideas in a short time and forming good drawing habits," says Daria Golab.



which is a big chunk of my work day," says artist **Derek Laufman**, who has completed the challenge in full every year since

2014. "I set aside a designated time each day to make it happen."

Check out www.inktober.com for more information and the all-important daily prompts, and don't forget to follow the hashtags **#inktober** and **#inktober2019** across social media.

Alexa Pásztor prefers to spend more time on each illustration, and create just a few complete ink drawings across the month.