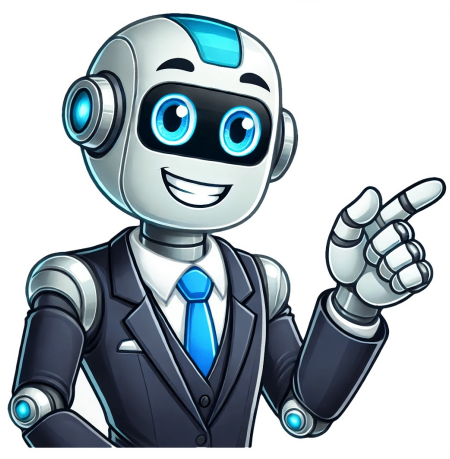


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The pandemic has left tens of millions of people around the world effectively jobless, and scammers, never ones to miss an opening, have been targeting freelancers and job seekers more frequently. Today, we look at an unusually sophisticated scam aimed at artists and designers. Job hunting on ArtStation

The story begins with ArtStation, a site where artists publish their portfolios in categories such as game art, anime, comics, media, and film production. It is normal for site users to receive personal e-mails from potential customers. Since last year, however, ArtStation freelancers have found themselves targeted by highly professional cybercriminals posing as employees of major game developers including 2K, Big Fish, Bluepoint, and Riot Games. The story of a scamOne user, a US-based concept artist, received what looked like an invitation for an interview with 2K, publisher of such titles as BioShock, Mafia, Sid Meiers Civilization, NBA 2K, and Borderlands. The position came with a good salary and the option to work remotely. The e-mail was well crafted and included many details that are usually indicative of an HR professional. Fake e-mail about a work-from-home jobThe contractor carefully studied the message, which looked nothing like ordinary spam. Even the senders domain appeared legitimate: @2kgamejobs.com. In between the terms of employment and links to LinkedIn profiles, the alleged employer stated that the interview would be held on Telegram and included a link to download and install the app. The artist downloaded the messaging app and contacted the alleged recruiter. At this point most scammers would pivot straight to extortion, but these ones remained in character for quite a while longer. They conducted a long and in-depth interview with the artist, but not over a video or even voice call, which is what wed expect from a legitimate company, but rather in text using Telegrams secret chat mode. Still, not for one second did the artist get the sense it was all a sham. The fake recruiters questions required professional knowledge of perspective, color theory, and shading. The test seemed real, and the artist was relieved to pass it. Now all that stood between the artist and the perfect job was a couple of formal procedures: some software and hardware requirements including a MacBook Pro with certain specs, a graphic-design package, a screen-calibration tool, and a time-tracking system nothing implausible, but the equipment had to be purchased from a particular vendor. In return, the artist could expect an advance payment check. However, the mandatory purchase of equipment was enough to make the artist suspect that something was amiss. The artist found a warning on 2Ks website about bad actors posing as company HR personnel and stopped communicating with the scammers. That was the end of the story for this artist, but not all targets were as vigilant. DenouementIf the artist had continued to communicate with the fraudsters after the phony interview, they would indeed rescu a check, which would appear to come from 2Ks finance department and be delivered by a real FedEx courier, which again shows how much effort the scammers put into the operation. The check looks real, but its fake. However, the check does not stand up to scrutiny. It looks real; the lettering on the stub even suggests the presence of a watermark on the back. But its just a piece of paper printed on an ordinary color printer. The scammers try to time its arrival for late on a Friday afternoon so the recipient wont have time to go to the bank and verify its authenticity. The timing may be linked to something more, however. Checks go through a process called clearing, which can take several days. Most banks do not work on weekends, so the scammers figure the new employee will simply pay for the equipment out of their own pocket that very weekend, assuming the check will clear. If the victim confirms their willingness to do so, the attackers reveal the identity of their authorized supplier, which turns out to be an individual with a Venmo or Zelle account, two US money transfer services. The bogus recruitment scheme is designed to get the jobseeker to send to this unknown party a sum equal to the cost of a MacBook and other required software and equipment more than US\$3,500 in total. How to protect yourselfThe scheme is big enough for the implicated companies to draw attention to it. ArtStation, for its part, posted an in-depth article about the scam. Some game developers and publishers have also posted warnings on their websites for potential candidates. Some studios warn artists to be careful. Here are some tips to help you avoid falling victim to this kind of scam: Limit job searches to official sources. ArtStations job board, for example, shows only vetted listings. Be wary of offers to discuss a job or hold an interview in secret chats, in which messages are encrypted and cannot be forwarded, and which alert participants if anyone takes a screenshot. Check contact information on companies official websites, which usually provide addresses and communication channels for HR personnel. If necessary, e-mail a general inquiry to the company asking the person who contacted you actually works there. Use a reliable security solution with fraud and phishing protection. The website is a nightmare to upload images. Will stall after 40 or so, then will start deleting your upload on it's own. It's a nightmare to upload just some images. Date of experience: May 18, 2025one of the worst sites I've used. Artstation on numerous occasions they still remain and Artstation and their owner Epic do nothing to remove them or stop them from scamming genuine members. Date of experience: November 15, 2024Paid them \$150 to create a job ad and NOW cannot get to the dashboard to do this because they keep asking me to pay again, even though I'm logged in. And there is NO customer support. So, now I get to deal with my bank to dispute the charge. Yay! Useless company run by incompetent boobs. Date of experience: August 12, 2024They say they refunded the subscription fee, but they did not. It's been 25 days and they haven't refunded me, or the refund brokerage companies are bad. Never buy or never cancel subscription because they wont pay back. Date of experience: August 04, 2024Had a time sensitive monetary issue with my account, 2 emails and 13 days later I've not received a peep from support. If this is the "support" a paying customer gets, I'll never spend a dime here again. Date of experience: April 20, 2024Doesn't display user as authenticated when visited via e-mail notification. Bitwarden autofill doesn't work with it. Authentication cookies appear to expire weekly, unnecessarily. Date of experience: March 31, 2024Beware. They add Taxes on your purchases but never provide you the tax invoice. Been following up since 6 months and 27 reminders but all to the deaf ears. Date of experience: March 28, 2024Artstation is turning into an AI hellhole like Deviantart. This is what happens when a tech bros company like Epic Games purchases an art community website. There is an option to filter out AI generated art, but it doesn't work. AI users can't just post a few pics, they must post 500 images that look similar, flooding the site. Most AI images stand out like a sore thumb - girls with a normal smooth faces and mismatched large steroid abuse bodies, is a popular one. Creating their weird fantasy girls, obviously. Overly polished, colors too bright, and too much contrast. These AI users probably never looked at art prior to generative AI, so they don't even know that it looks ridiculous. AI can only make art because of its database of human made art. Epic Games pretends to be concerned with "AI research." In reality they just want to steal and exploit real artists. Because that is exactly what it does, takes from real artists and gives nothing back. Date of experience: March 18, 2024What used to be a good hub for professional and hobbyist artist has no become a wasteland of generative AI spam. It's massively fallen from grace looking for actual art on the site has become a pain and so I've stopped using it, as a contributor and as a visitor. Until changes are made to be artist-first and spam-second, or rather spam-never I will recommend against using ArtStation to any of my fellow artists. Date of experience: February 08, 2024Date of experience: February 08, 2024Wish i could leave zero reviews. Have a business gift card given at Christmas and someone hacked it in Canada and used it for this place. Don't trust this place. Date of experience: January 24, 2024Paid to post jobs but does not work. Been chasing support for 1 month and still not heard back. Will need to request money back from credit card. Date of experience: January 11, 2024Absolutely terrible. Not only have they been pulling this AI crap (if you haven't marked your settings as NOT allowing your work to be included in their AI? too late, it's gone, they took it). Lately? They keep hitting my work with "against community standards". Literally pictures of robots made out of rocks smiling. Or a pic of a grassy field landscape. No AI, all made by me. Takes forever and I work hard on it. Support's answer to "Why is my work being deleted?!"? Answer: "I can see you are trying to delete your work and it won't delete, I'll get the team to help you" NO, I DON'T WANT MY WORK DELETED. I'm trying to STOP you from deleting my work for no reason! Why why why? Date of experience: June 28, 2023A awful customer support, it can take months for them to reply. I used paypal as my payout option, to just many months later receive my answer from customer service that they don't pay out to paypal. Why is paypal even an option then, makes no sense at all. It all feels pretty much like a scam. I guess i'll see in a few weeks if my payout is ever happening. I have my doubts to be sure. Date of experience: April 24, 2023Totally bogus company. They advertised being able to download a book by Michael Connelly only to be forced to sign up for some investment garbage. A total scam. Date of experience: December 27, 2022Artstation is not a place for artists. It uses their work and creativity for other means. As long as You are not listening to artists, you will keep losing them. Date of experience: December 17, 2022 Redirecting from website tunnelstudios.com, gauji.com, tinea.net, joelbernholm.com, oskarkuijken.com, ixi-art.com, lv-88.com, sidneyo.be, andrewsoman.com, yuxdesign.com, vincentvanderklaauw.com, www.mikesafoles.com, mutant-pixel.com, arbytucho.com, michalmilkowski.com, leahcjackson.com, cg-king.com, janne-paulsen.com, alexsashin.com, raducanu.net, www.cwardee.co.uk, www.rickponte.com, www.annaleneaweber.de, www.andrewsoman.com, www.yuxdesign.com, www.kosteckipawel.com, www.raducanu.net, www.jeremylove.com, www.multicamfil.com, www.mutant-pixel.com, www.gauji.com, www.paulbannon.com, www.andrewrennie.com, www.kyleromano.com, www.bliss-art.net, michael-hogan.com, www.vincentvanderklaauw.com, www.ensar.info, www.cghub.com, www.eternalseven.com, www.designfarb.com, www.kylebromley.com, www.patricksutton3d.com, www.napes.net, www.kenr3d.com, www.poribo.com, www.kestas3d.com, www.karikoski.net, www.tunnelsunstudios.com, www.andreilges.com.br, www.zainrizwan.com, www.tinea.net, www.brookewagstaff.com, www.tariq3d.com, www.saravildeart.com, www.scribblecel.com, www.marceldomke.com, www.relitedesign.com, www.alexthomas.eu, www.manicworks.com, artstation.agency, www.quentinrucker.com, artstation.cam, artstation.world, artstation.download, www.killtown.com, www.photrox.art, www.molлиеfabric.com, www.digit3d.com, www.joshswanson.com, www.kazperstan.co.uk, www.rosarium.pl, www.millenia3d.net, daviddrinkard.com, www.vespora.com, www.justingroom.com, artstation.com, www.benjaminwiddowson.com, www.lilisysart.com, www.dashkin.com, www.scotthomer.co.uk, krakencreative.studio, www.indvox.com, www.chesteroacamp.net, www.chesteroacampo.com, matteobuda.com, willhaw-k-art.com, hichamouchan.com, cgdreams.co.uk, glow-production.com, nancydavedrawings.com, taylorm.games, josephineklock.com, benredmond.net, harshmaan.art, dragonsoulgallery.com, benjaminwiddowson.com, dashkin.com, iartdrive.com, vukbanovic.com, uefn.org, vespora.com, 3drtst.ca, zachbush.com, etiennebednarz.fr, ryanmilligan.ca, rodg.com.br, ryantrumble.com Title ArtStation - Explore Domain age 20 years from now SSL certificate valid valid SSL type Low - Domain Validated Certificates (DV SSL) SSL issuer Google Trust Services WHOIS registration date 2005-05-14 WHOIS last update date 2024-04-13 WHOIS renew date 2026-05-14 Tags Industry - Jobs, Industry - Media - Games, Registration PossibleThe website is a nightmare to upload images. Will stall after 40 or so, then will start deleting your upload on it's own. It's a nightmare to upload just some images. Date of experience: 18 May 2025one of the worst sites I've used. Trying to login is like trying to hack into fort knox. They force you to link accounts to epic accounts with all these different logins. Be prepared to see "wrong password", no password reset emails sent, server errors, redirects, auto logging out, etc. I gave up and bought the asset I was trying to buy from elsewhere. Date of experience: 13 May 2025Its been impossible to stay logged in for years now. There's no info online on a solution either. This, along with the site being infested with AI slop has kept me away. Date of experience: 27 January 2025As a seller on ArtStation, my account (along with many others facing the same issue) is now at risk of being deleted because ArtStation has partnered with Trolley to process payments. The problem? Trolleys identity verification process is fundamentally broken, making it impossible to complete the necessary steps to receive payments. Despite submitting multiple valid government-issued documents (including my national passport, drivers license, and others), the system repeatedly fails to verify them. It outright rejects legitimate documents in non-English languages, doesn't have the address, and does not allow for re-submission or additional supporting documents. Each time a document is rejected, the verification form becomes locked, preventing me from attempting again. This effectively leaves users stuck with no way forward. Despite repeated attempts to resolve this with customer support, there is no option for a manual verification process to address edge cases like mine. As a result, my ability to receive payments for my hard work is jeopardized. Trolleys inability to handle basic identity verification not only risks my livelihood but also undermines the trust ArtStation sellers have in their platform. I strongly urge ArtStation and other platforms to reconsider their partnership with Trolley. If youre considering using Trolley for payment processing, think twice they are simply not equipped to handle the complexities of global identity verification. Avoid this service at all costs unless they drastically improve their processes and provide real support for users. Date of experience: 18 December 2024Print I received was way too dark. Practically illegible. I contacted support, received no response. I had to open a PayPal case. AVOID! Date of experience: 22 November 2024Artstation is overrun with 'NFT' and 'Art collector' scammers. Despite these scammers being reported to Artstation on numerous occasions they still remain and Artstation and their owner Epic do nothing to remove them or stop them from scamming genuine members. Date of experience: 15 November 2024Paid them \$150 to create a job ad and NOW cannot get to the dashboard to do this because they keep asking me to pay again, even though I'm logged in. And there is NO customer support. So, now I get to deal with my bank to dispute the charge. Yay! Useless company run by incompetent boobs. Date of experience: 12 August 2024They say they refunded the subscription fee, but they did not. It's been 25 days and they haven't refunded me, or the refund brokerage companies are bad. Never buy or never cancel subscription because they wont pay back. Date of experience: 04 August 2024Had a time sensitive monetary issue with my account, 2 emails and 13 days later I've not received a peep from support. If this is the "support" a paying customer gets, I'll never spend a dime here again. Date of experience: 20 April 2024Doesn't display user as authenticated when visited via e-mail notification. Bitwarden autofill doesn't work with it. Authentication cookies appear to expire weekly, unnecessarily. Date of experience: 31 March 2024Beware. They add Taxes on your purchases but never provide you the tax invoice. Been following up since 6 months and 27 reminders but all to the deaf ears. Date of experience: 28 March 2024Artstation is turning into an AI hellhole like Deviantart. This is what happens when a tech bros company like Epic Games purchases an art community website. There is an option to filter out AI generated art, but it doesn't work. AI users can't just post a few pics, they must post 500 images that look similar, flooding the site. Most AI images stand out like a sore thumb - girls with a normal smooth faces and mismatched large steroid abuse bodies, is a popular one. Creating their weird fantasy girls, obviously. Overly polished, colors too bright, and too much contrast. These AI users probably never looked at art prior to generative AI, so they don't even know that it looks ridiculous. 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Date of experience: 24 January 2024Paid to post jobs but does not work. Been chasing support for 1 month and still not heard back. Will need to request money back from credit card. Date of experience: 11 January 2024Absolutely terrible. Not only have they been pulling this AI crap (if you haven't marked your settings as NOT allowing your work to be included in their AI? too late, it's gone, they took it). Lately? They keep hitting my work with "against community standards". Literally pictures of robots made out of rocks smiling. Or a pic of a grassy field landscape. No AI, all made by me. Takes forever and I work hard on it. Support's answer to "Why is my work being deleted?!"? Answer: "I can see you are trying to delete your work and it won't delete, I'll get the team to help you" NO, I DON'T WANT MY WORK DELETED. I'm trying to STOP you from deleting my work for no reason! Why why why? Date of experience: 28 June 2023A awful customer support, it can take months for them to reply. I used paypal as my payout option, to just many months later receive my answer from customer service that they don't pay out to paypal. Why is paypal even an option then, makes no sense at all. It all feels pretty much like a scam. I guess i'll see in a few weeks if my payout is ever happening. I have my doubts to be sure. Date of experience: 24 April 2023Totally bogus company. They advertised being able to download a book by Michael Connelly only to be forced to sign up for some investment garbage. A total scam. Date of experience: 27 December 2022Artstation is not a place for artists. It uses their work and creativity for other means. As long as You are not listening to artists, you will keep losing them. Date of experience: 17 December 2022 Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Highly recommended, but caution will not hurt. Our conclusion: ArtStation stands out for their exceptional legitimacy, according to ComplaintsBoards detailed analysis. This highlights ArtStation's reputation as a trustworthy leader in their field. Customers can rely on ArtStation's services, assured they're dealing with a highly reputable and fully legitimate company. Artstation.com has a valid SSL certificate, which indicates that the website is secure and trustworthy. Look for the padlock icon in the browser and the "https" prefix in the URL to confirm that the website is using SSL. Artstation.com has been deemed safe to visit, as it is protected by a cloud-based cybersecurity solution that uses the Domain Name System (DNS) to help protect networks from online threats. Artstation.com you are considering visiting, which is associated with ArtStation, is very old. Longevity often suggests that a website has consistently provided valuable content, products, or services over the years and has maintained a stable user base and a sustained online presence. This could be an indication of a very positive reputation. ArtStation's website appears to be focused on art and entertainment. While this can be a great source for finding creative inspiration, it's important to verify the legitimacy of the site and its content before investing time or money. However, it's important to take the time to research the site and verify its legitimacy before making any purchases or investments. ArtStation's website seems to offer jobs or career advice. While this can be a helpful resource, ArtStation website is deemed to be popular and indicating that it receives a high volume of traffic. It is important to be cautious when using a highly trafficked website, as it may be a target for cybercriminals looking to exploit vulnerabilities or steal personal information. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy.

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