LOCKING AND UNLOCKING LAYERS AND SUBLAYERS

To avoid accidentally moving, deleting or editing an object or group of objects, you can *lock layers and sublayers*. Not only is it not possible to change objects on a locked layer, you cannot even select a layer or sublayer that is locked. Like hiding layers, this is useful when you want to work with certain objects but not inadvertently change others.

Try This Yourself:

Continue using the previous file with this exercise...

1 On the artboard, click on the green background object

The background consists of a gradient filled square, the same size as the artboard. Notice that a selection border is not displayed around this object as the Background layer is locked and cannot be selected…

2 In the *Layers* panel, click on the lock icon for the *Background* layer until the icon disappears

This will unlock the layer…

3 Repeat step *1* to select the background object

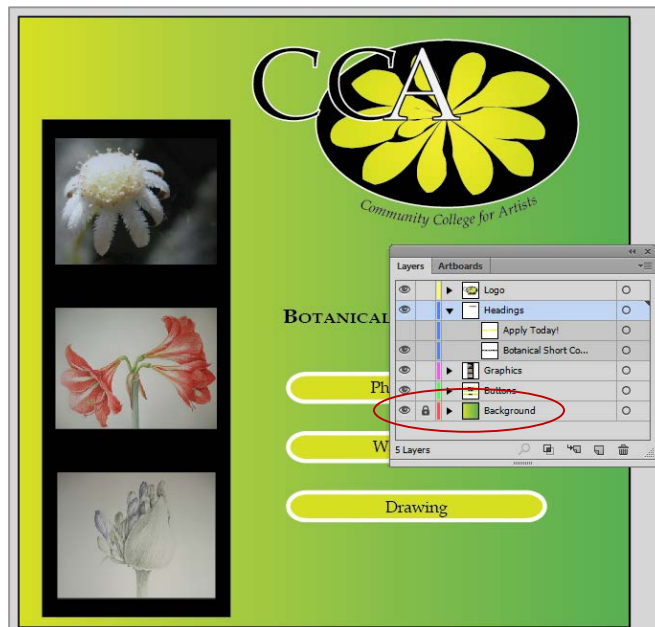*This time, a (red) selection border appears around the square on the Background layer. Let's remove the stroke…*

4 In the *Tools* panel, select the *Stroke* box then click on *None* – click on the canvas to see the result

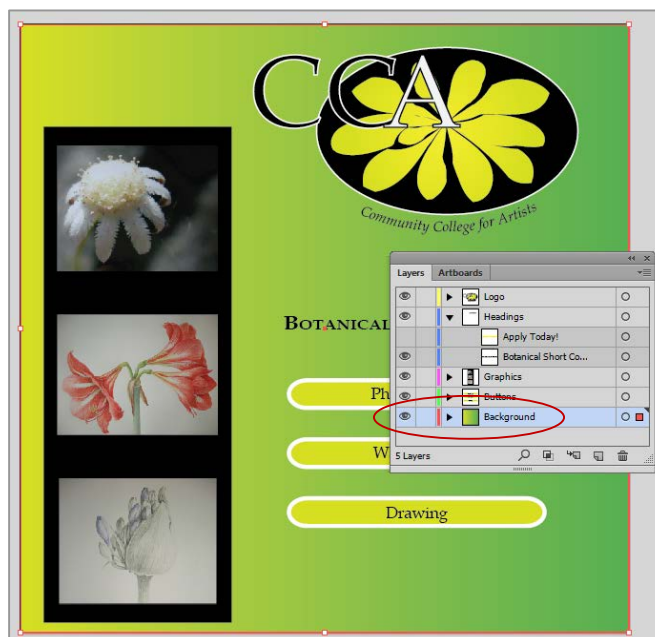*The thin outline you see now is the edge of the rectangle…*

5 In the *Layers* panel, click on the second (*Lock*) column for *Background* until the lock icon appears

The layer is locked again

For Your Reference…

To *lock* and *unlock layers* and *sublayers*:

1. In the *Layers* panel, click on the *Lock* column for the layer or sublayer to lock/unlock it – the option toggles on and off with each click

Handy to Know…

- You cannot add an object to a locked layer. So, for instance, if the *Buttons* layer was locked in the above example and you wanted to add another button to the artboard, you would first have to unlock the *Buttons* layer and then ensure it was selected in the *Layers* panel before drawing the button.