

LET'S MAKE PHOTOSHOP FLY

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A BETTER WAY TO USE UNSHARP MASK

1. Duplicate the background layer
2. Set the blending mode to "darken"
3. Apply unsharp mask (toggle preview on and off to see result)
4. Flatten the image layers

HOW TO SHARPEN *WITHOUT* UNSHARP MASK

1. Duplicate the background layer
2. Set the blending mode to "hard light"
3. Apply "high pass" filter (radius 4 pixels)
4. Flatten the image layers
5. If necessary, adjust hue/saturation

HOW TO CROP EXACTLY TO FIT A3 PAPER

1. Select the rectangular marquee tool
2. Set the aspect ratio to 210:297 (landscape) or 297:210 (vertical)
3. Draw a marquee from top left
4. Use pointer or keyboard arrows to reposition "marching ants" to desired crop
5. Go to "image > crop"

HOW TO MAKE A PEN-AND-WASH ARTWORK

1. Duplicate the background layer
2. Apply the "find edges" filter
3. Set brightness and contrast to maximum
4. Desaturate the top layer
5. Make bottom layer active and visible, and apply "dust and scratches" filter
6. Apply "dry brush" filter (all sliders to right)
7. Set top layer blending mode to "multiply"
8. Activate bottom layer and adjust hue/saturation
9. Flatten image layers
10. Apply "burlap" texture
11. Increase colour saturation
12. Apply "auto contrast"

HOW TO FAKE AN OLD MASTER PORTRAIT IN OILS

1. Start with a suitable subject
2. Set background colour to black and foreground to white
3. Select the entire image and copy (to establish image size; do not paste)
4. Open a new document (without closing the previous window)
5. Apply the "render clouds" filter
6. Fade the cloud filter to 50%
7. Draw a feathered circle in the highlight area
8. Select inverse
9. Darken the background
10. Deselect, then apply the "sprayed strokes" filter (max settings, vertical)
11. Apply the "spatter" filter (maximum)
12. Without closing the background "cloth", make the portrait image active
13. Make a new document of the portrait image and close the original
14. Go to the "extract" operation

15. Enlarge view with the magnifier
16. Trace around desired edge with highlighter
17. Fill the desired part of the image with the paint bucket tool and click ok
18. Use the history brush to touch up edges
19. Set magic wand tolerance to 10 and click transparent area
20. Select inverse
21. Use "move" tool to drag portrait onto background
22. Activate the foreground (portrait) layer
23. Use layer effects (outer glow) to place a halo around the subject (opacity 10)
24. Reduce image resolution by 50%
25. Restore the image resolution to 100%
26. Ensure that the portrait layer is still active
27. Apply "smart blur" to portrait layer (max values)
28. Apply canvas texture to portrait
29. Activate background layer
30. Apply "craquelure" filter to background
31. Adjust hue/saturation of background (with the foreground visible)
32. Flatten the layers
33. Apply "auto contrast"

HOW TO CONVERT A COLOUR IMAGE TO MONOCHROME

1. Desaturate the image (hue/saturation)
2. Adjust lightness of the red channel
3. Adjust brightness of the yellow, green, cyan, blue and magenta channels in turn
4. Apply "auto contrast"
5. Change to lab mode
6. Delete the "a" and "alpha 2" channels
7. Convert to grayscale and print as black (not colour)

COLOUR EFFECTS TO DYE FOR!

1. Create a colourful gradient (or use an existing one)
2. Apply the selected gradient, using a gradient map
3. Duplicate the layer
4. Make top layer active and visible
5. Apply "find edges" filter
6. Set blend mode to "difference"
7. Make the bottom layer active and visible
8. Apply a different gradient map
9. Flatten image layers
10. Adjust colour saturation

HOW TO MAKE "FINGERS OF GOD"

1. Start with a suitable landscape
2. Enter "quick mask" mode
3. Select a small soft brush
4. Set the quick mask foreground colour to black
5. "shift-click" to draw outlines of the "fingers"
6. Fill "fingers" with bucket tool
7. Exit "quick mask" mode (to see "marching ants")
8. Copy the "fingers" and paste to place them on a new layer
9. Set blending mode to "screen"
10. Apply "Gaussian blur"
11. Adjust brightness of "fingers" (levels)
12. Flatten image layers

HOW TO PAINT A RAINBOW

1. Open your landscape image
2. Create a new layer and keep it active
3. Draw a circular marquee from the bottom (hold shift and alt/option)
4. Set foreground colour to red
5. Fill selection with foreground colour
6. Transform selection and reduce to 98%
7. Set foreground colour to yellow
8. Fill selection with foreground colour
9. Transform selection and reduce to 98%
10. Set foreground colour to light blue
11. Fill selection with foreground colour
12. Transform selection and reduce to 98%
13. Set foreground colour to purple
14. Fill selection with foreground colour
15. Transform selection and reduce to 98%
16. Clear the selection
17. Deselect
18. Set the blending mode to soft light
19. Soften the rainbow with "Gaussian blur"
20. Use the eraser in airbrush mode to remove unwanted parts of the rainbow
21. Flatten the image layers

To see an illustrated presentation of these techniques, visit the Websight of Jules Cohen

www.xybernet.co.za