

Selections / Masks and Montages. Part 2 By Dennis Holden

For this lesson it is recommended that you review the subject of Layers. Check out Youtube video: *Lesson 1: Introduction to Photoshop Layer Masks*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA8TgyTruV8&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMyaHFxe9Hg&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQuMY_cy9Pk

Steps:

Open a background image and then Duplicate Layer.

Open an image containing your chosen subject.

Make a rough selection by any method you prefer. I will use Lasso.

Click on the selection with the Move tool and move it on to the background.

Adjust size and position with Edit>Free Transform or Ctrl T .

Leaving Layer 1 active go to Image>Adjustments>Hue and Saturation.

Make what adjustments you want in order to harmonize the Subject with the Background.

Make the Background Copy layer active then go to Image>Hue and Saturation in order to harmonize the Background with your Subject. These last 2 steps may be repeated.

In order to refine your subject make sure layer 1 is active and click on the Layer Mask icon at the bottom of the layers palette. (a box with a hole)

Paint with a small brush to remove unwanted parts of your subject selection.

In Elements 5 use an Eraser. .

To initial your work: Make the top (#1) layer active,.

Make a new layer. (Layer>New Layer or the button at the bottom of the layers palette)

Choose a fine pen and sign your name.

Flatten and Crop as you wish. Then “Save as”

Choosing Suitable Backgrounds

1. Choose an appropriate image for the subject. You may wish to apply various filters to or enhance soften the image.
2. Find a colorful fabric, reflection, sunset or a close up of an object with interesting color or texture. Again look at filters to modify.
3. Open a new document (File>New) then use the Gradient tool with appropriate background and foreground colors.
4. Open a new document (File>New) then choose items from Filter (eg. Render >Clouds or Fibres). Select appropriate colors.
5. Create your own art work by opening a new document with a suitable underlay color, selecting an appropriate brush and color, then painting free hand. You may then wish to apply a filter to soften or alter.
6. Use the Art History brush on your original background. See *Reference Youtube video; 2MPT #28 Video Painting*

With your desired Background Layer active, click Layer>Duplicate Layer

Go to Edit> Fill> color white. The layer will become white

Click on the Art History Tool and choose soft brush. Try brush 13, opacity 47%

Set the Style to your choice. Try “tight short” for starters.

Then with the Art History Brush paint over the central part of the image. If tight short is not to your taste, Edit>undo or Ctrl z, then try another Style. An Eraser with low opacity (40%) will bring up more background detail.

Flatten and Save as if desired.

