

ACF 3003 Digital Fine Art Photography

Self Portrait Exercise using Photoshop and Layer Masks.

Capture

Place your camera on a tripod in a well lit situation, one that is even and constant, i.e. no moving clouds and no bright contrast between highlights and shadows.

Use either a self timer or another person take 3 photos of your self, DO NOT MOVE THE TRIPOD or CAMERA!

Preparation

Download to your computer, browse through bridge and open in photoshop, by right clicking. [Choosing the open in camera raw option here is useful] The images will open nested within each other. Zoom out using the zoom tool, then separate each of the images to 3 separate files. See Images to the right

We will use the following tools in Photoshop

The Move tool



The Zoom Tool



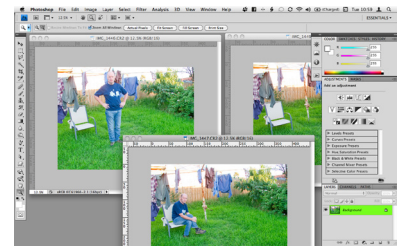
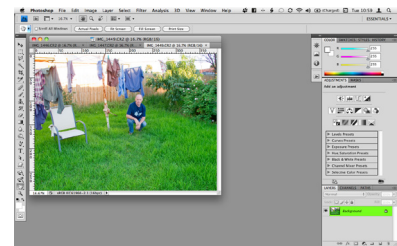
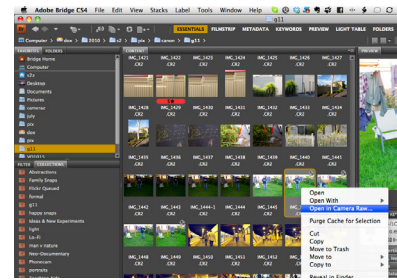
Foreground/Background colour swatches



Paintbrush tool

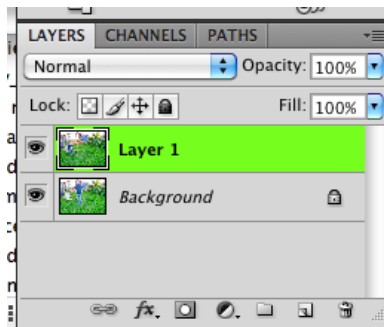


Hover your mouse over the tools in the tool bar to see a tool tip, appear, to find these.

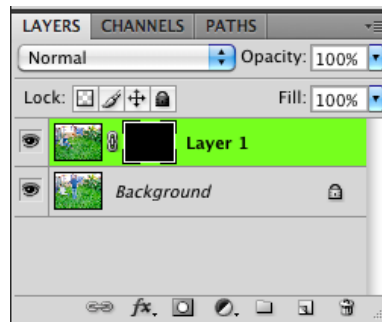
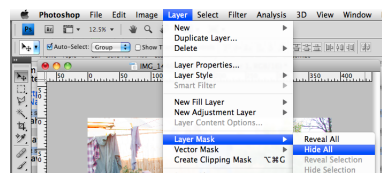


Process

1. Using the move tool; and holding down the shift key, drag one image onto the other, let go of the mouse when you have one image over another.



2. You now have two images atop the other.



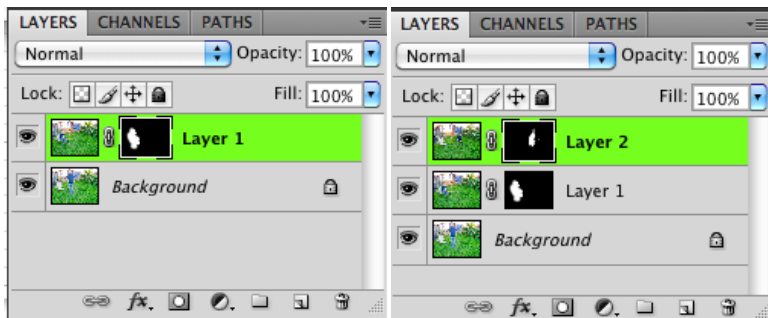
3. In the menubar go to Layer>Layer mask>Hide all

3.1 The bottom image reappears

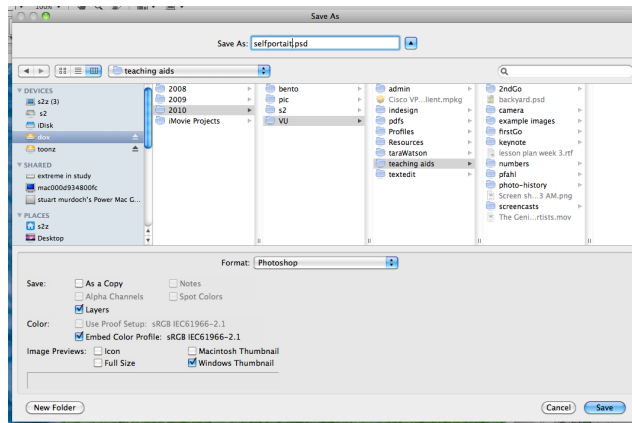
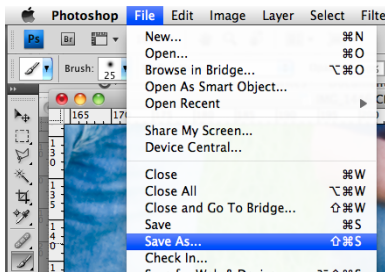
3.2 The top image has a black mask next to it, the icon [black] should have lines around the corners

4. Pick up the paintbrush tool, and paint on the mask, making sure the brush is set to 100% opacity. Paint the second version of yourself back into the image. Make sure you have white as your default painting colour by hitting the D on the keyboard.

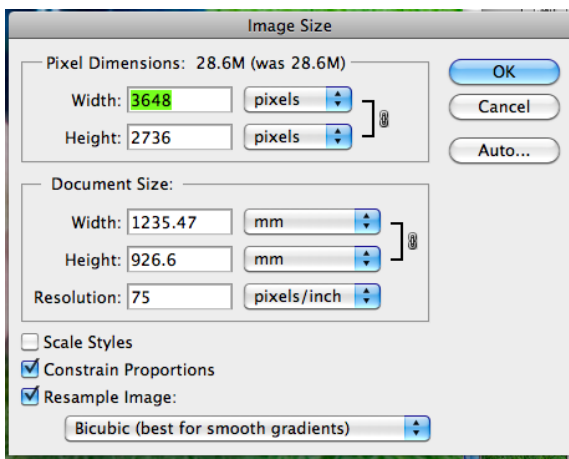
5. Repeat for the third image.



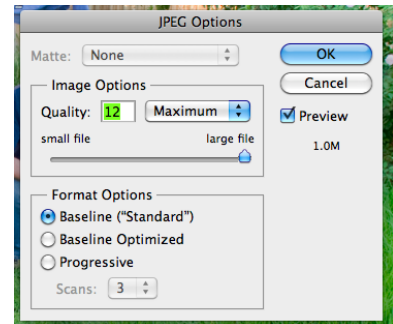
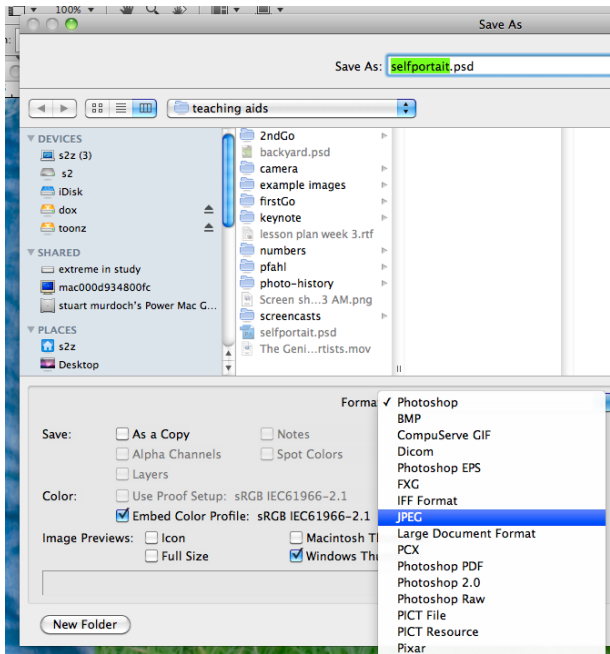
6. Save your work as a Photoshop file.



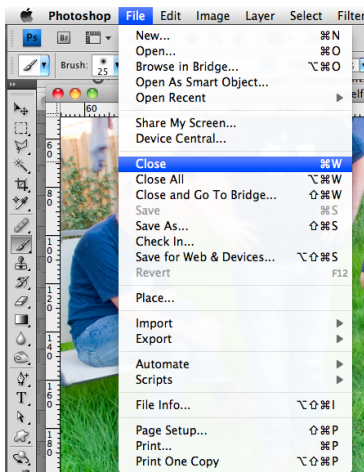
7. Resize the image to 1024 pixels on its longest edge, and at a resolution of 75 dpi.



8. File save as a jpeg, and upload to flickr or your blog, e-mail me with the file's location.



9. Close all files



10. Quit Photoshop



This technique can be used to add or subtract all kinds of effects that will enhance our images and move them closer to our 'vision' or idea. Remember photoshop is a pixel editing program and editing/destruction of pixels needs to be kept to a minimum.