

Creating Images

Unit 4 Lesson 3

Creating an Image

- With layers and selections covered we can now begin creating original photographs by mixing pieces of other photo's.
- This lesson will cover different techniques that can be used to create original images.
- Our first technique will be to use a transparent gradient to blend two images together.
- 2ndly we will use our selection skills and feathering to blend another image to complete our composition

Exercise 1: Using gradients

- We will create the following image:



Exercise 1: Continued

- In the Sample Images folder Open the file o8_04a.jpg
- Import the following images as layers: o8_04b.jpg and o8_04c.jpg using Layers → Import from file
- Rename the layers as: Planes and Family and hide the family layer.
- Select the Planes layer and reduce the size of the image to 45% (Layers → Rotate/Zoom)
- Move the layer into the top right corner of the picture
- Select the Gradient tool and choose Radial style and Transparency mode
- With the Planes layer selected click just above the centre plane and drag to the right to create a gradient blend
- You may need to try a few times to make the blend look natural

Exercise 1: Continued

- Make the family layer visible and select it.
- Delete the background using the magic wand tool. Be sure to delete all background including under mother and daughters arms.
- Reduce the size of the family placing them at the bottom of the image to look like a natural part of the image.
- To make the family look more natural we will feather them.
- Select the magic wand tool and turn on Global Mode to select everything that is now transparent. Using the magic wand tool select the background and then invert your selection.
- Select Effects → Selection → Feather (setting of 2)

Using the Clone Tool

- When we are working with images there are situations where we will have unwanted items in the image
- We use the clone tool to do this.
- The clone tool copies regions of your image to another area or layer.
- To use the clone tool you must first select an area that you will copy. This done by pressing CTRL and click on the area you will copy from. You may change your source at any time. You may also change the size of the clone brush.

Assignment: U4A2

- We have a great picture of SCHS but would like to remove the hydro poles as they distract from the image and crop it for a better effect.



Assignment: U4A2

- Crop the photo like below. Remove the hydro lines, poles, and replace the road with lawn (not done below). Adjust the brightness, sharpen the photo, and tune the saturation to make the photo really pop. Image is in the folder Sample Images and is called School Front.



Other tools/techniques

- There are a number of other tools and ways to create images.
- The best way is to experiment and try different things
- In this final section of these unit we will be covering a number of different items:
 - Recolor
 - Effects
 - Desaturating Selections
 - Using layers and deleting

Recolor

- The recolor tool allows you to replace one color with another.
- As with the magic wand there is a tolerance level
- The tool works by replacing the secondary colour with the primary colour
- Use the colour picker to select the colour you wish to replace (secondary)
- Set the primary color and begin to paint

Effects

- There are many effects built into Paint.Net. You can also download many more.
- Often you will not want to effect an entire image with a particular effect.
- You can control this one of two ways:
 - Select what you want to have changed and run the effect
 - Create a duplicate layer run the effect on this layer using the erase tool

Assignment

- #1 RECOLOR
- Load the image model.jpg from the sample images folder.
- Change Mr. Polinsky's shirt so that it is yellow.
- #2 EFFECTS
- Using the same image, try both methods to make the background blurry.

Desaturating Selections

- This technique allows you to change parts of your picture to black and white.
- In general you will select what you wish to desaturate and desaturate it.



Layers and Deleting

- There are times when you want to delete a part of an image and replace it with another.
- For example to place someone's head on another body
- To do this you will have one layer with the original image and place the object you want replacing the original on a layer behind the original
- Erase the original image so that the replacement appears
- This can also be done by using a selection process

Exercise

- Using the images head 1.jpg and head 2.jpg, take Mr. Chan's head and place it on Mr. M Plett's body