

## ASSIGNMENT 4: Composite

### SETUP

Create a folder and title it "(lastname)-4". Inside this folder will be 2 other folders:

1. "sketch": containing 3 digital sketches, saved in .jpg format, level 8 compression
2. "final": containing the final composite image (saved in .psd (Photoshop) format, at 100ppi)

The **technical objective** of this assignment is to create a composite image in Photoshop using at least 4 images; these images can be taken from negatives, slides, prints, printed matter, cloth, 3-D objects--the only requirement is they have been scanned by you (not clip art or internet download). Image quality is very important, so if you are going to use any half-toned printed matter then make sure it can provide a clean enough scan for your needs. The size of the image is up to you, but keep in mind that the final print size should not be larger than 8x10.5 inches. The final output resolution should be between 200-300 ppi; you will be turning in a downsampled copy in psd format, with all of your layers intact.

Your final image should represent a synthesis of everything that you have learned in this class. Therefore, your image should demonstrate many of the key techniques we have covered: clean scans, color correction, sharpening, layer masks, adjustment layers, various blending modes and opacities, various filters, and any other techniques that are appropriate for you image.

The **creative goal** of this assignment is to make a composite of images that takes the theme established in your previous assignments and boils it down into a single image. You can re-use the scans made for the earlier assignments, or work with new ones. The final image can be as complex or simple as you see fit.

One of the best ways to brainstorm is to look at as many examples as possible; what is successful and what is not and why? We will be looking at examples in class, but students are strongly encouraged to do research outside of class. For current work, check out the many digital art magazine available, or check out the digital gallery links found on the class website.

### Here are the steps you will take to complete this assignment:

1. *Select 4 or more images that you would like to use for your composition.* The most straightforward way to do this would be: 1. select a background, then 2. select things to go onto the background. How you want to work with or break from this figure/ground relationship is up to you. Remember that images can be drastically altered in Photoshop in an amazing number of ways, so try to see images with these possibilities in mind. Try scanning in images that are seemingly inappropriate and experiment with ways to make them work in your composition. For this assignment you are not limited to 2-dimensional images, try experimenting with scanning in objects, drawings, or anything that can work in your composition. I suggest working with at least six scans to give yourself room to experiment.

3. *Scan.* **The final will be under 8x10.5" at a minimum of 200ppi, so you will need to scan in images at the appropriate resolution to fit at the planned size within that canvas size.** Remember to scan your images at a large enough size to give yourself some flexibility when making sketches. These scans need to be of the highest quality possible, so be sure to work from clean source material and with a clean scanning

surface. You will achieve much better quality scanning from negatives and transparencies instead of prints; so dig up those negatives whenever possible.

4. *Create three digital sketches of potential layouts.* Any serious art or design project is built upon research and experimentation; whether the project is personal or professional. Therefore, after scanning in your images, you will create 3 distinctly different composition sketches. These sketches can be as rough or as refined as you see fit, but they must reflect an active exploration ideas and of Photoshop tools.

5. *Create the final composite.* Combine the successful elements of your sketches and create your final composition. Unlike the sketches, your final composition will be graded heavily for its demonstrated understanding of all the Photoshop tools and techniques discussed in class, i.e, clean selections, layers, layer masks, adjustment layers, different blending modes, opacity, etc. Keep your file in .psd (Photoshop) format in order to preserve layers as I will be looking closely at how you are using the capabilities of the layers palette.

## **PURPOSE**

1. To learn how to prepare multiple images for use in a Photoshop composite image.
2. To learn how to merge disparate images into a cohesive thematic whole
3. To experience the preparation of complex projects using sketches/proposals.
4. To practice using complex selections and masks effectively.
5. To combine all of the skills learned in this class to create a cohesive personal photographic work.

## TRUISMS

A little knowledge can go a long way  
A name means a lot by itself  
A single event can have infinitely many interpretations  
A solid home base builds a sense of self  
A strong sense of duty imprisons you  
Absolute power corrupts absolutely  
A penny saved is a penny earned  
Description is more valuable than metaphor  
Every achievement requires a sacrifice  
Everything that is interesting is new  
It's better to be naive than jaded  
Learn to trust your own eyes  
Listen when your body talks  
Presentation is as important as content  
Less is more  
Routine is a link to the past  
A Freudian slip is when you say one thing and mean your mother  
My karma just ran over your dogma  
Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes  
...(that way, if he gets angry, he'll be mile away)  
Love that is true lasts forever  
A conclusion is a place where you got tired of thinking  
Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new  
The land belongs to no one  
There is fine line between information and propaganda  
The sum of all actions determines what you are  
The more profound things are inexpressible  
The mundane is to be cherished  
You must know where you stop and the world begins  
You should travel light  
A penny saved is a penny earned  
You can't expect people to be something they are not  
You can pull yourself out of any hole  
You dig your own grave  
Using force to stop force is absurd  
Trading a life for a life is fair enough  
True freedom is frightful  
Unique things must be the most valuable  
When something terrible happens people wake up  
The unattainable invariable is attractive  
The new is nothing but a restatement of the old  
Live and let live