

Creating Altered Reality!



Altered Reality Photography

One should be able to immediately see that the photograph has been creatively manipulated



It looks realistic but cannot be found in the real world



The PSA definition of Creative Altered Reality is as follows:

The image must display a change in color, form, shape or any combination.

All images must be your own.

A computer-generated graphic can be used if original photo content predominates.

Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.

High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered “Altered Reality.”

For full definition:

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-individual-creative-competition>

How To Get Ideas for Creative Photography??



Join Facebook Photography Groups: Photoshop & Lightroom, Photography Tricks Group etc.



Follow on Instagram other photographers that have a unique photography style.



Pinterest Altered Reality Ideas or simply internet search, 'Altered Reality Photography'



Cool Pic Ideas

Keep a digital folder of images you like or want to emulate. Mine is nicknamed, '**Cool Pic Ideas**'



Write down your ideas before you forget them! I send notes to myself in Facebook Messenger.



Find tutorials and put your 'spin' on a well-known idea or technique.

Example, Perspective Bending on the Photoshop Training Channel.



Ask other club members for help. Always share your knowledge and the favor will be returned.



SHOOT FOR THE CLUB THEME! This has advanced my skills more than anything else!



Cool Pic Ideas

An Example from my 'Cool Pics' Folder

I saw this image on the internet and it sparked my interest.

I saved the image in my, 'Cool Pics' folder.



This was the result!



San Diego Surfers – Newport Beach



My iPhone 3 as a cutout .png file



I used this image as my inspiration

My Basic Editing Rules

Fix major flaws first

Fix minor flaws – all of ‘them!’

***Always try to ‘borrow’ from the photo**

Work using simple layers and layer masks

Remove Distractions!

Perfect the imperfections!

Enhance subtly :)

If you want to composite, think ahead and shoot accordingly

LEARN THE PEN TOOL!

Don’t be afraid to play with Photoshop – HAPPY ACCIDENTS!

Shoot for the ‘Theme’ to help creativity!



My Basic Rules

Fix major flaws first (like crop and *straightening)

Don't always rely on the basic straightening tool.

It can be 'straightened' and still 'look' crooked. Try and fix it.

Fix minor flaws

Discover the power of 'Edit', 'Transform'!!

Copy areas to make small layers to fix flaws

using 'select', 'copy', 'paste', 'edit' 'transform'

Use different tools to fix smaller flaws

Don't always rely on 'clone' and 'content aware' – They don't always do the job you need

***Always try to 'borrow' from the photo**

This decreases problems of different lighting

Makes it easy to blend layers

Makes the edit believable

Work using simple layers and layer masks and stay organized

Once you have layers, they are easy to move, manipulate and blend as needed.

Add simple layer masks to help blend layers by erasing and un-erasing in a non-destructive manner

Remove Distractions!

If you notice it, others will notice it more

Perfect the imperfections!

Be very critical of every imperfection – fix them!

Enhance subtly :)

Find what stands out that looks nice and make it even better!

If you want to composite, think ahead and shoot accordingly

Learn to 'bracket' your shots when shooting the scene

Take images of things you think you can use later.

LEARN THE 'PEN TOOL'!

This tool has a large learning curve but is the key to making intricate extractions possible.

Shoot for the 'Theme'!

This pushes you to think outside of the box and to perfect new editing techniques.

Helps you to be creative.

Don't be afraid to play with Photoshop – HAPPY ACCIDENTS!

My Main Photoshop Tools: Copy, Paste, Edit, Transform, Masks to Erase and Un-erase

Select

Copy

Paste (Paste Special) (paste in place)

This allows me to make simple layers

★ Edit

Transform

(scale, rotate, distort, skew, perspective, warp)

This allows me to manipulate a layer in any way I choose

Layer

Layer Mask (Erase / Un-erase)

This allows me to blend in a natural way

My Altered Reality Categories:



1. Composite Creations

2. Creating Something from Nothing

3. Photo Manipulations

- and Computer-Generated Graphics

4. Real versus Imagined

5. Lens Ball Variations

6. Real People Miniatures

7. Out of Frame

8. Club Themes!!!



1. COMPOSITES!



Things to Remember When Making a Composite

Set up each element using its own layer.

Make a layer mask for each layer

Find a 'selection' tool that you like to make cut outs. I use the Pen Tool.

The best selection tool is the one you like and know how to use.

Include details that make the scene believable, like shadows and lighting.

Take photos of things you may be able to use in 'future' composites.

'Objects in Mirror Are WAY Closer Than They Appear!'



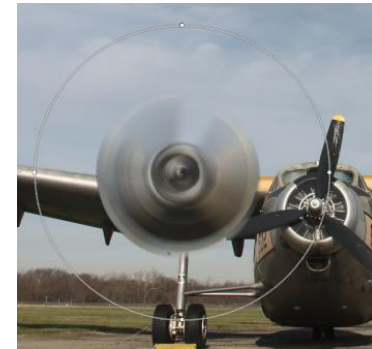
Composite Example...

**Inspiration for my image...
Jurassic Park**





OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE WAY CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR!



Camera Raw Filter
Blur Gallery
Spin Blur
Decrease Opacity

Club Theme was, 'Caption This'

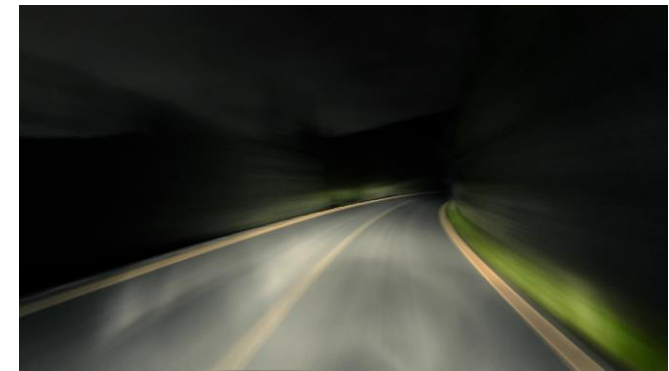


**This Would Not Be Allowed In Competition
Images are NOT my own**

Stock Photo



<https://www.freepngs.com/zombie-png-images?pgid=izn234ah-33b2383b-5461-11e8-a9ff-063f49e9a7e4>



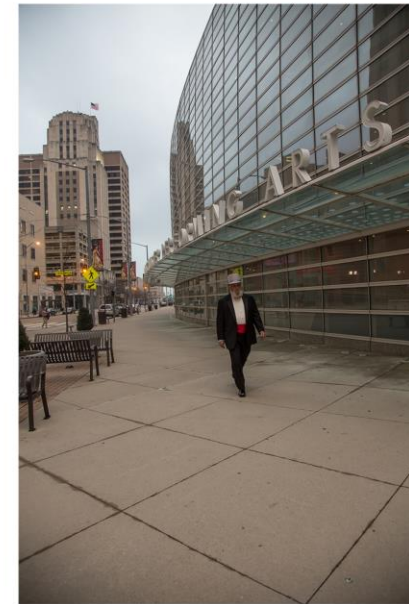
Objects in Mirror Appear to be Dead!

'Objects in Mirror Appear to be DEAD!'

Composite Example...



A conversion to black and white with final stage dodging and burning sealed the deal on this image.



Main Editing Tools:
Pen Tool, Edit, Transform, Warp
Small amount of HDR Effect

Composite Example...



Original Image



Final Image

'Moonrise Surprise'

Maritime Museum in San Diego

Replica of Her Majesty's Ship Surprise
'HMS Surprise'

Used in the movie, 'Master and Commander'

7:50pm Sunset, Hand held

f/4, .5 sec, ISO 200 Aperture Priority (AV)



How I Did it - Main Concepts

Borrowed from the photo

Fixed major distractions (boat on the right). First edit.

Fixed minor flaws (last edit)

PEN TOOL! – to cut out the rigging on ship

Main Photoshop Tools:

Pen Tool to extract subject

Copy, Paste, Edit-Transform

Layer Masks – to hide and blend the borrowed components

Added 'Moon' to the image behind the cutout

A. Fix Major Flaw

I borrowed from the image



I selected this component of the image to use to 'hide' the major distraction on the opposite side.

Photoshop Tools:

Select

Edit

Copy

Paste

Edit

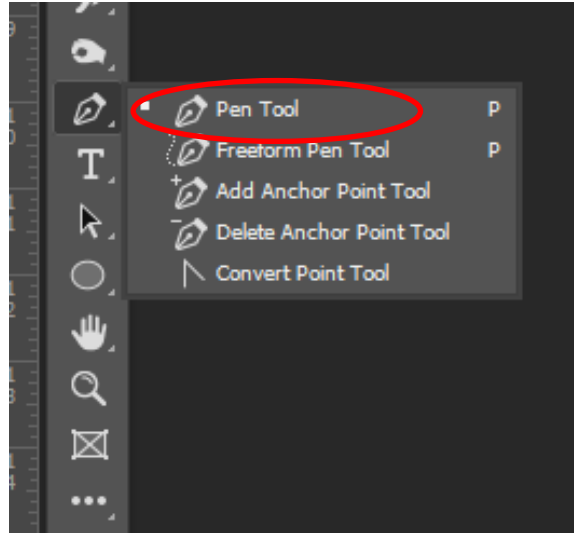
Transform

Flip Horizontally

Move into place on opposite side.



B. Pen Tool to cut out rigging



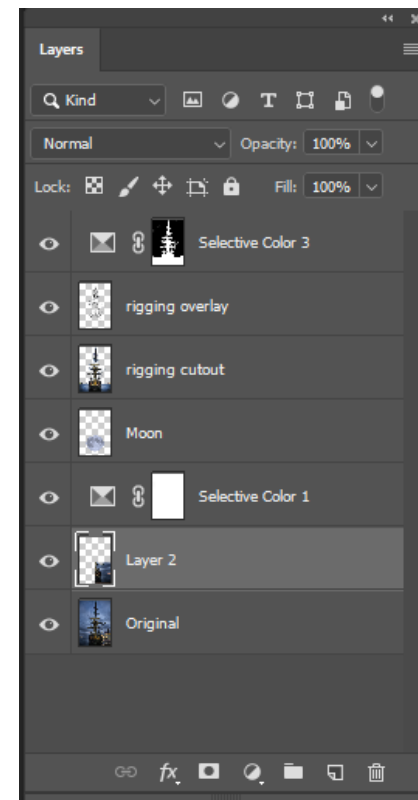
At this point, my plan was to add a moon and a cool sky

C. Added a Moon



I used a blue colored overlay to help it match and blend in.





In the end, I decided to use the original sky.

*At the time I created this image, I was not yet using layer masks.

Today, I would!!



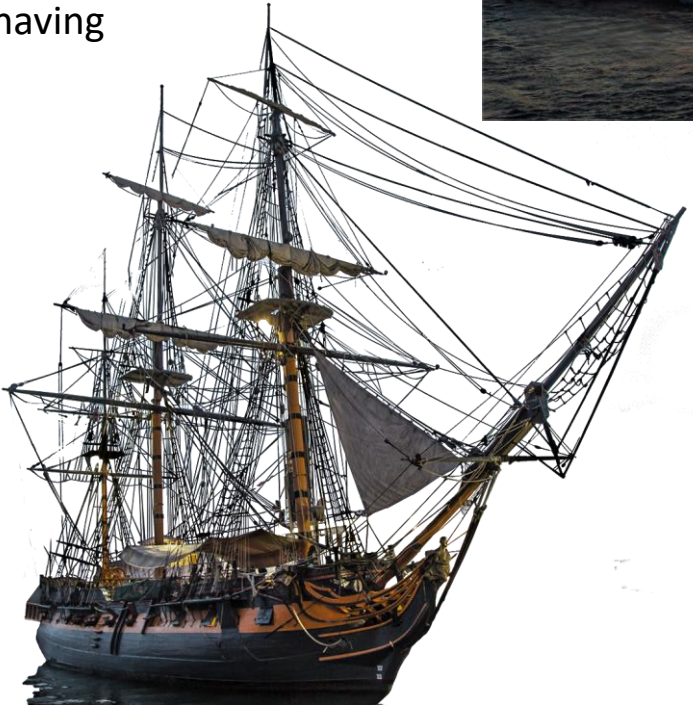
Discover the Power of the Pen Tool!

Being able to cut out objects gives you a TON of artistic freedom. It changed my photography editing life!!

Making selections can be frustrating. There are many different ways to select an object in photoshop.

Find a method that works for you, and that you like.

There are tutorials on the pen tool, but if you are having difficulty, have someone show you how to do it.





Susan Willia
PHOTOGRAPHY

Applied Principles:

Borrowed surf, seaweed, water and sand from original image

Added components – ship cutout, bottle, and cork



My Inspiration photo...



I was able to 're-use' this cut out for this image

Creating a Composite...

'Phone Home'

Placed my iPhone on a piece of black floor tile

Image of Cincinnati taken from the overlook at the old Celestial Restaurant.

Stars are from a purchased overlay



2. Creating Something From Nothing...



A guitar playing friend showed this first image to me and asked if I could make her something similar...

I thought, ok! How hard can it be??? ...All I need is a stand of trees, a moon, and make a reflection!

I was wrong! It was very hard, and my final image took me on a very long journey.

However, I learned a lot along the way...



'Guitar Gently Weeping'



Base Images used to Make the Guitar Composite

Sharon Woods



Sharon Woods



West Milton Falls



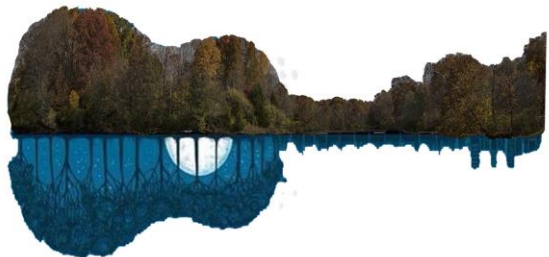
Englewood Dam

Main Images used...

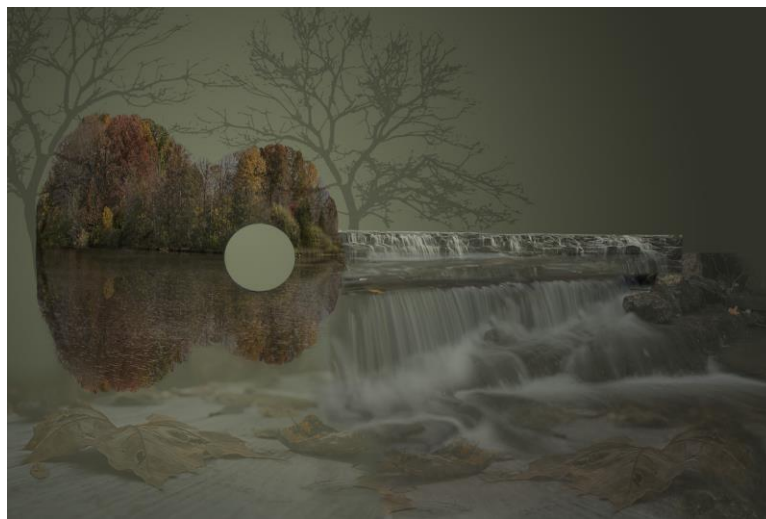


A few of the basic image progressions...

I had many, many different progression versions of the image, adding different parts of the images to the overall creation...including a blood moon (in the corner :)



These are just a few samples of my progression. They do not show each progression.





**Over 30 layers
and layer masks**

Final edits were numerous. A few included:

Running the image through a paint program (Dynamic Auto Painter), with greatly reduced effects, to bring a more 'painted' look and color to the overall image.

NIK filters and masking to increase clarity and details.

Finding and repairing defects.

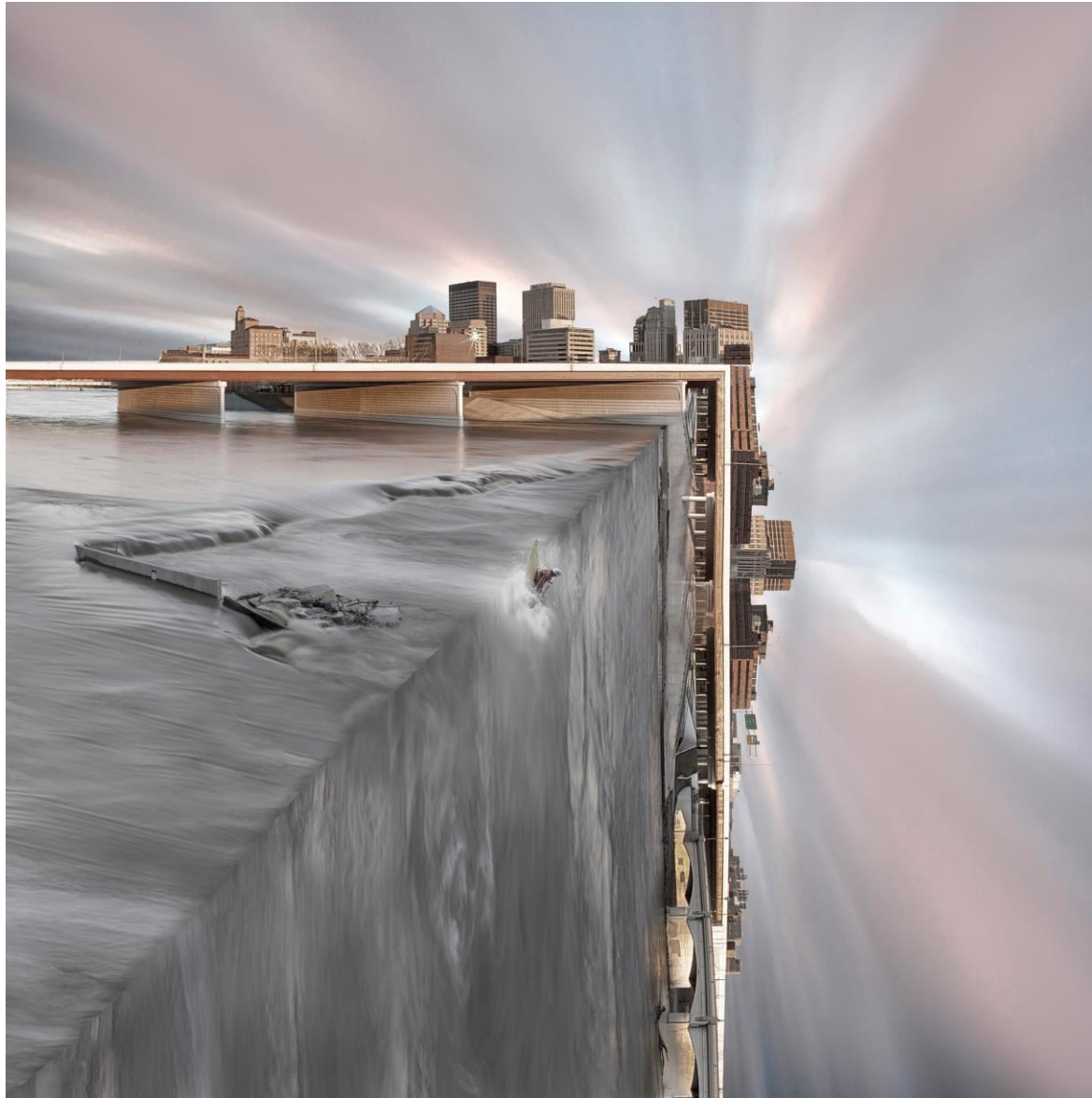
Adding details to improve the overall aesthetics of the image.

Main editing tools: Copy, Paste, Edit, Transform, masks to erase and un-erase

3. Extreme Photo Manipulation

Perspective Bending





TUTORIAL LINK

PTC MIND-BLOWING Perspective-Bending Effect in Photoshop [E... Watch later Share 34/61

PTC

Subscribe on YouTube! YouTube 1M

Posted In: Compositing Photoshop Tutorials | Watch on YouTube

In this Photoshop tutorial, you will learn how to create a perspective-bending effect. The resulting cube Earth will be a similar effect to the photo manipulations that you have seen in the movie Inception and Dr. Strange.

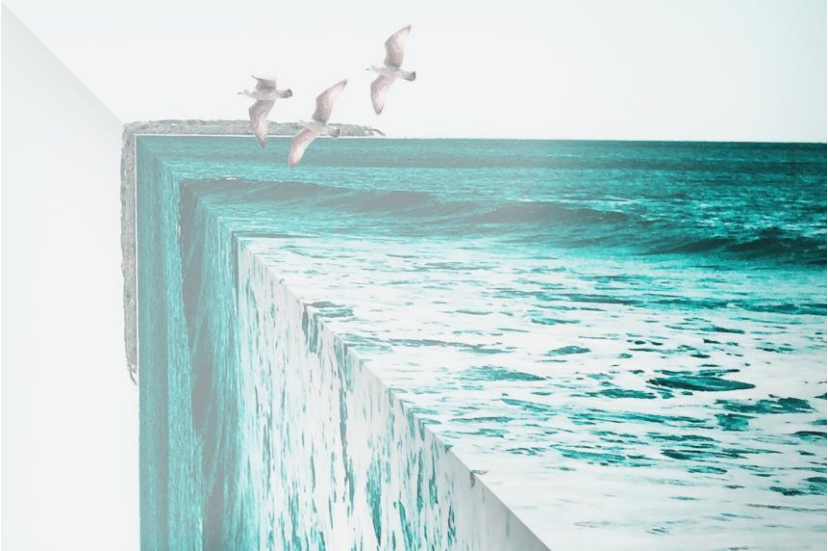
<https://photoshoptrainingchannel.com/perspective-bending-effect/>

By: Jesus Ramirez

Original Panoramic Image



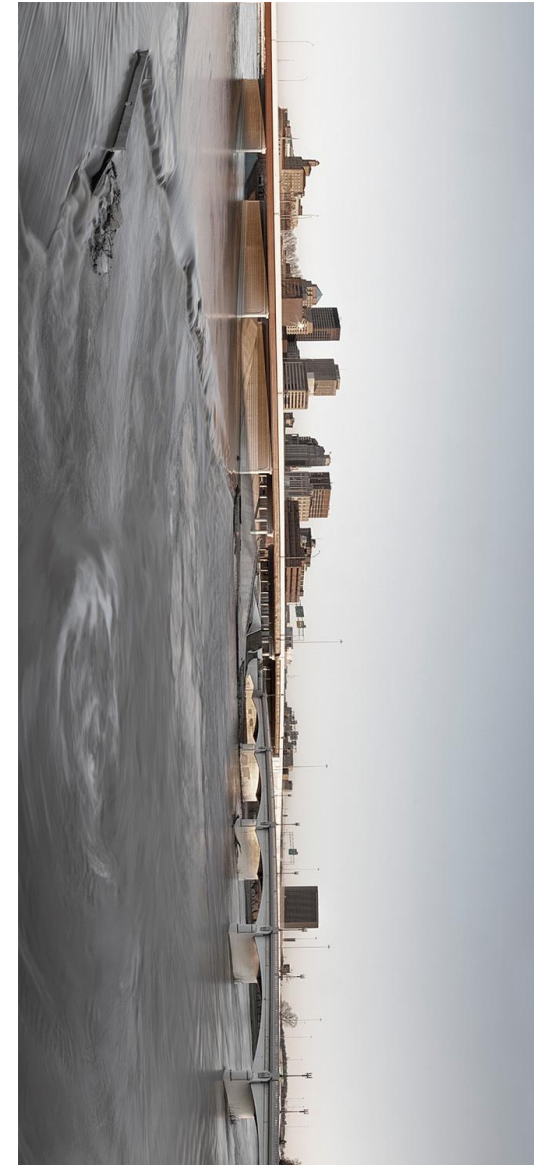
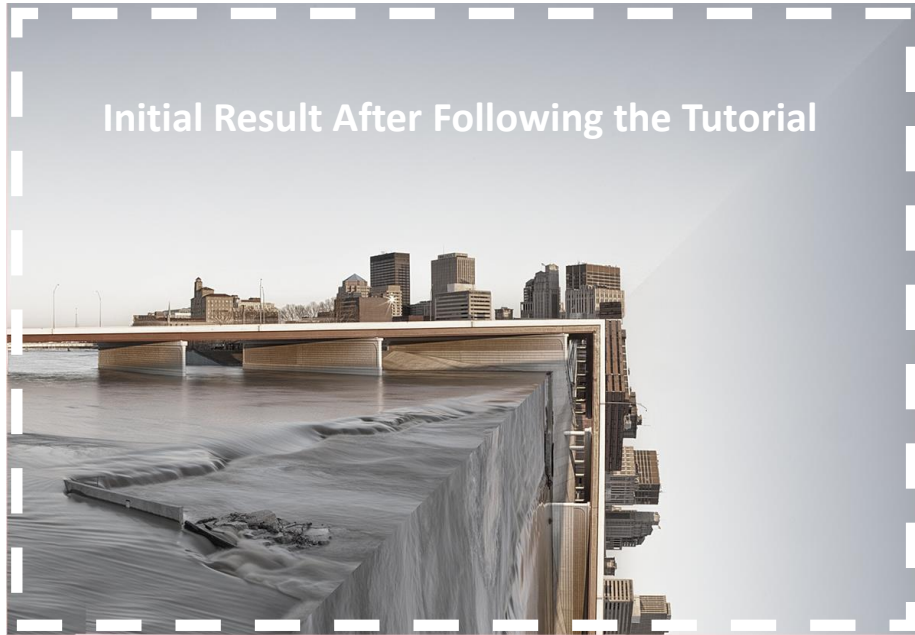
My Inspiration Image



First Edit

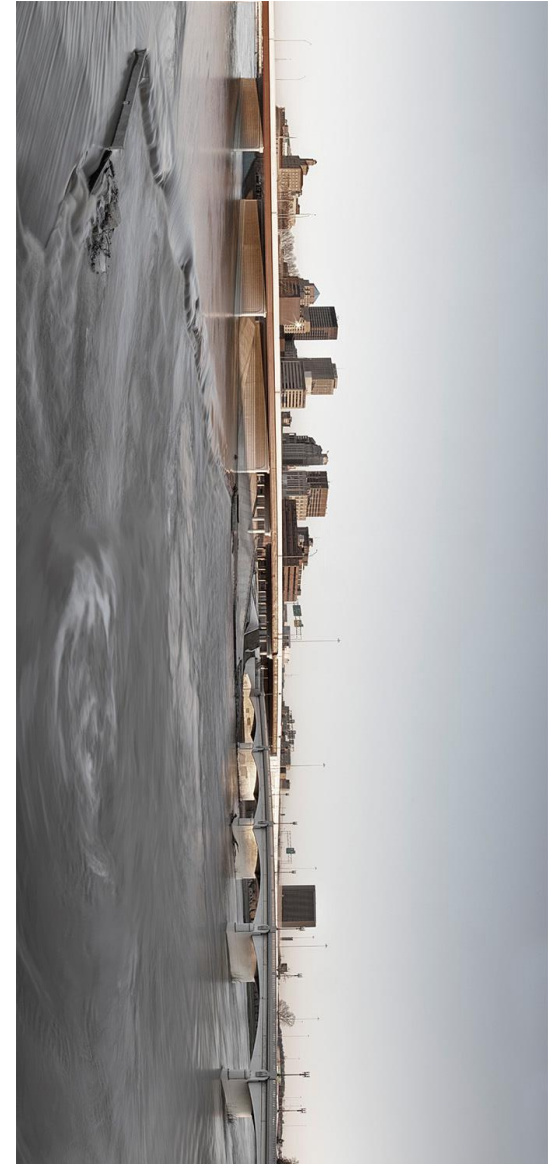
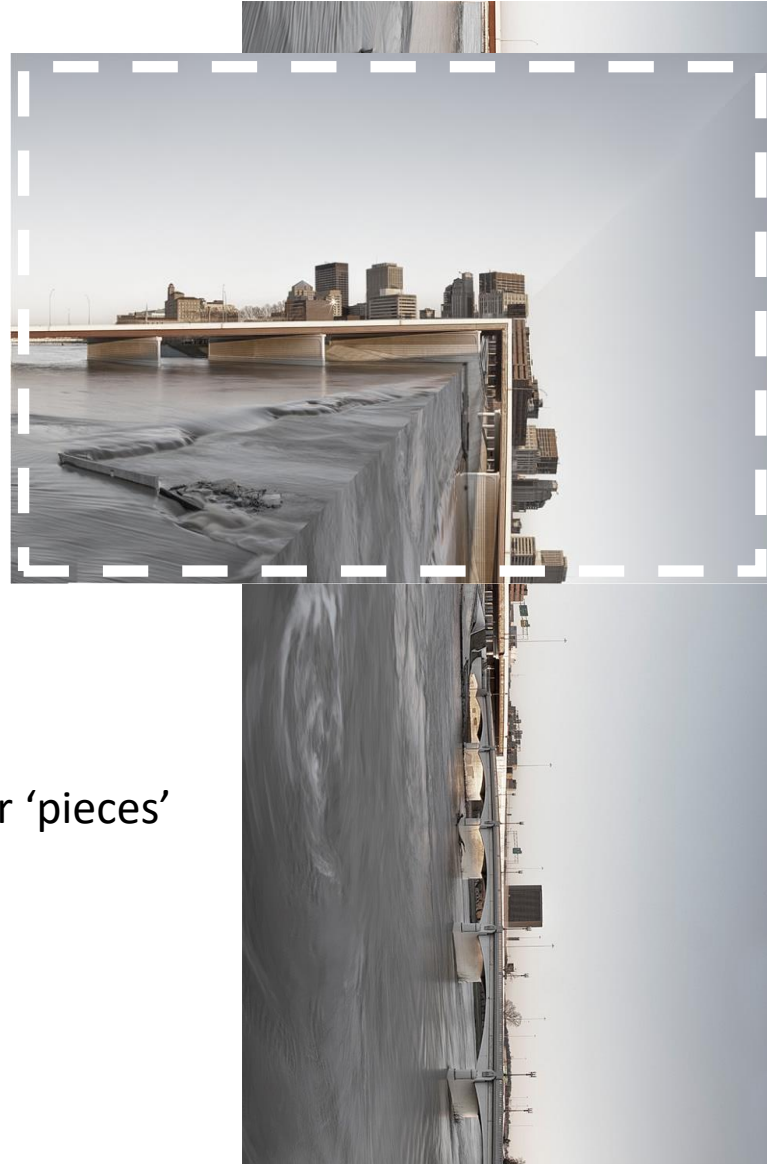


I wasn't happy with the original result, so I tried to fix it!

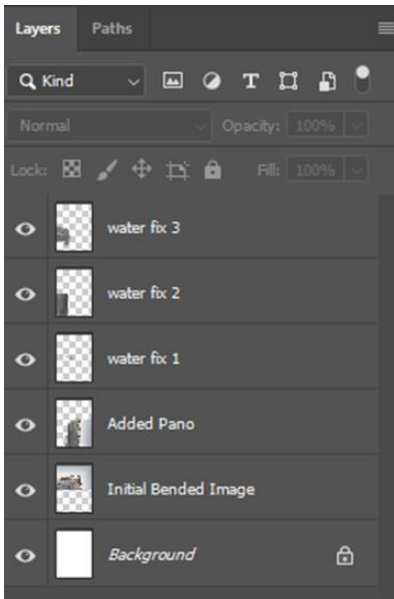


I 'borrowed' from the original image to add length to the right side

How I Fixed It!



I also borrowed water 'pieces' to fill in the space

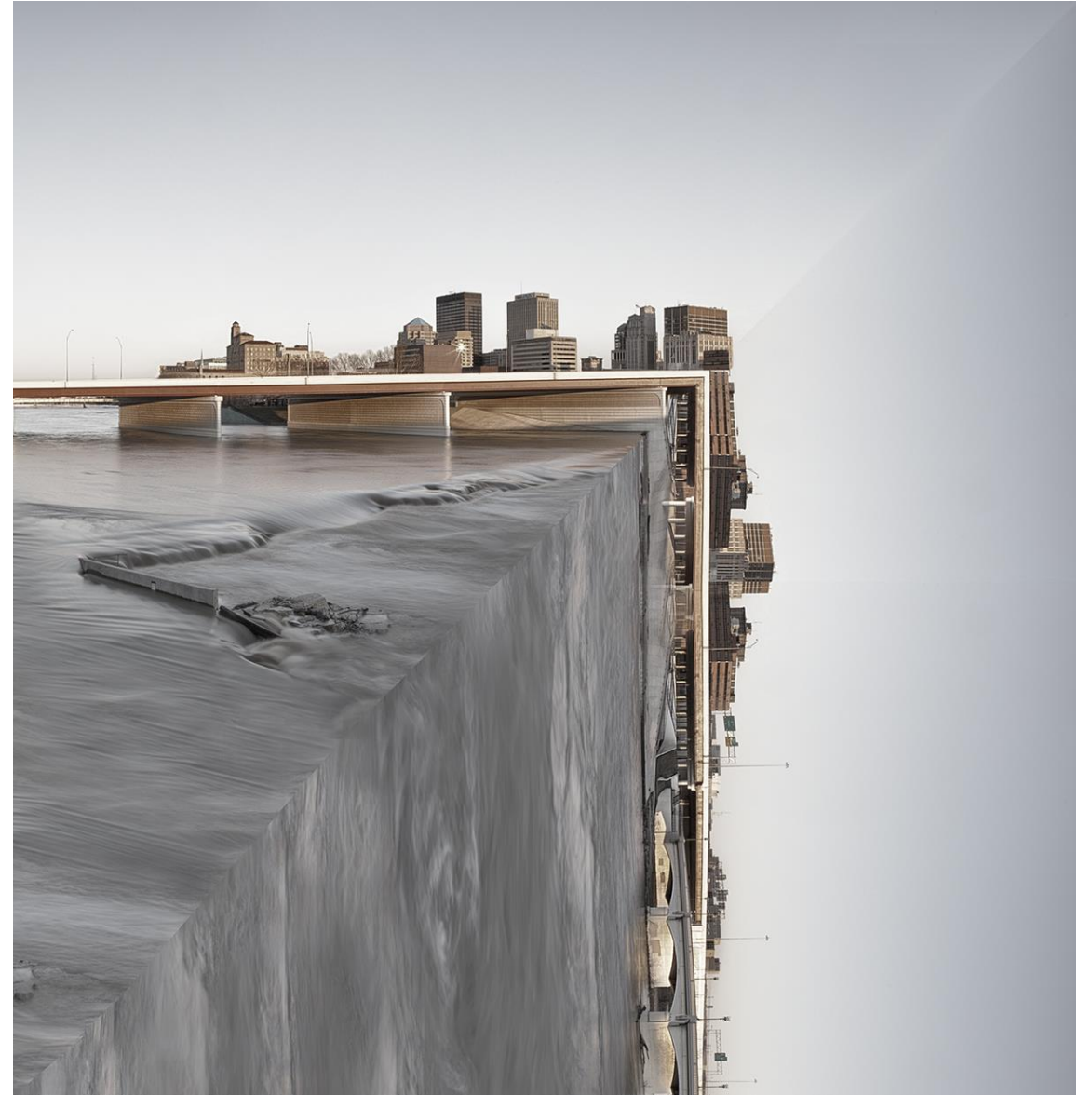


Layers of 'water' I borrowed from the source image

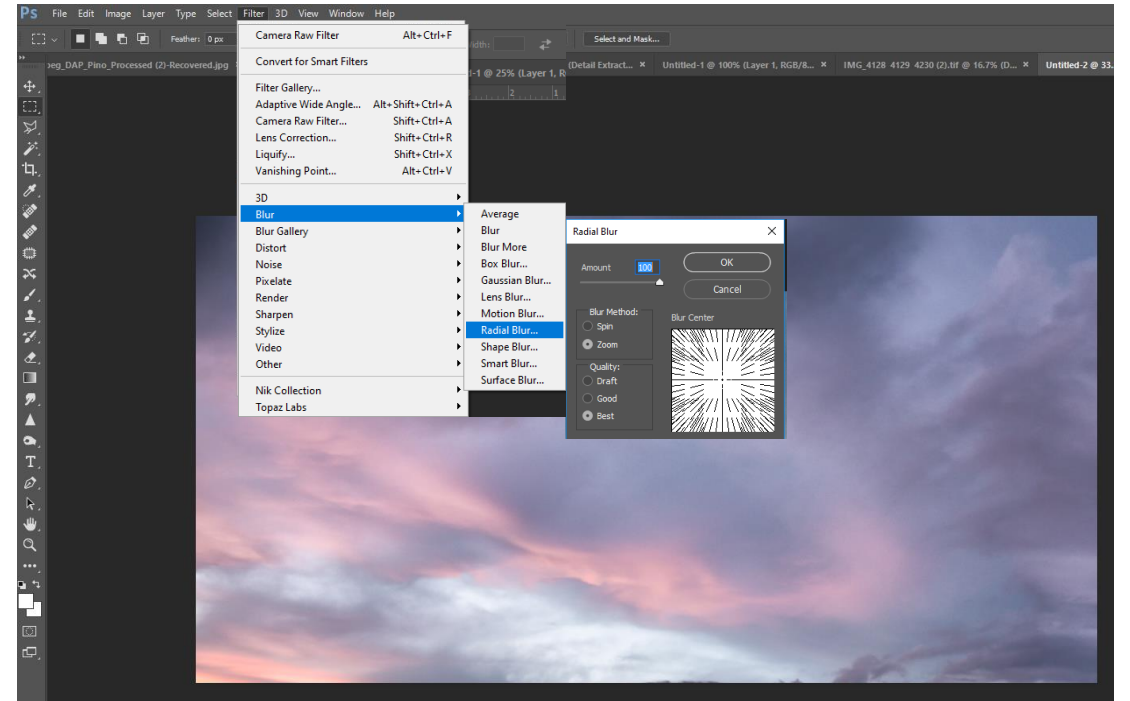
Shows added water pieces that need blending and fixes



Square Crop



I used this technique to make the sky



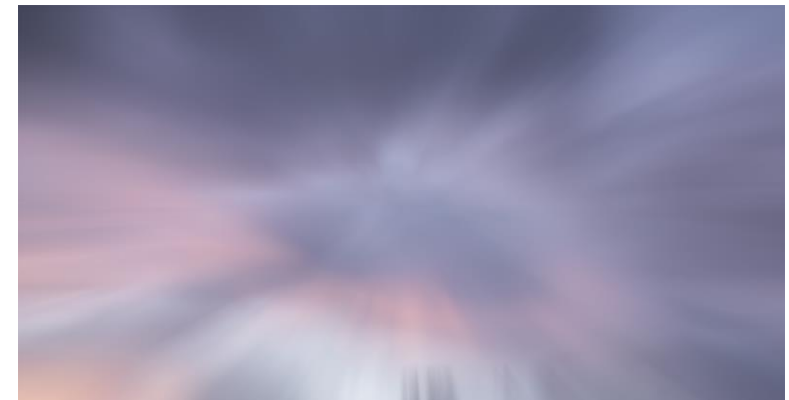
Editing Steps:

Filter, Blur, Radial Blur

Set Radial Blur to Zoom, Best, 100%

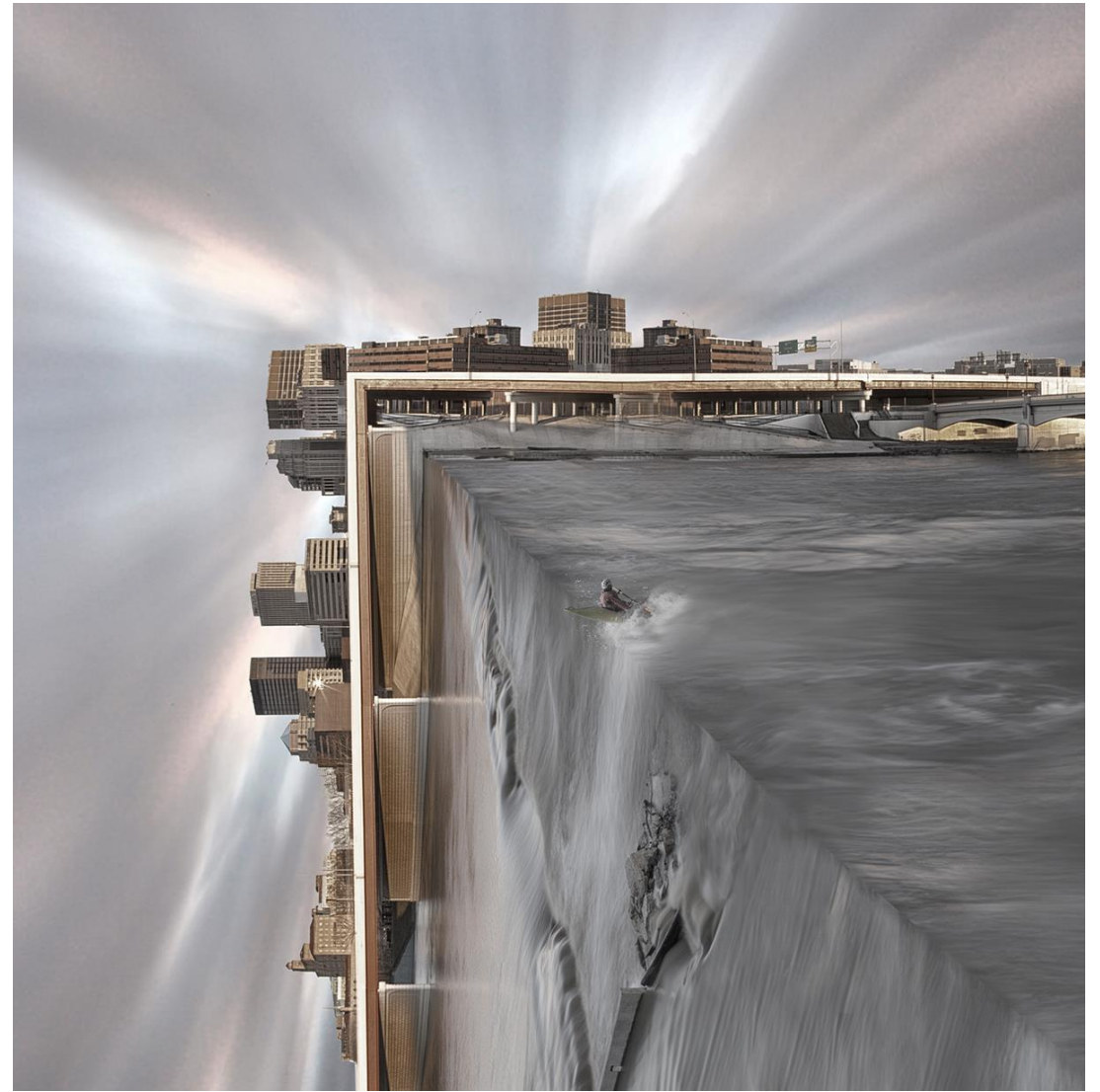
To make this image more 'impactful', I added a dramatic sky.

Adding the kayaker sealed the deal!

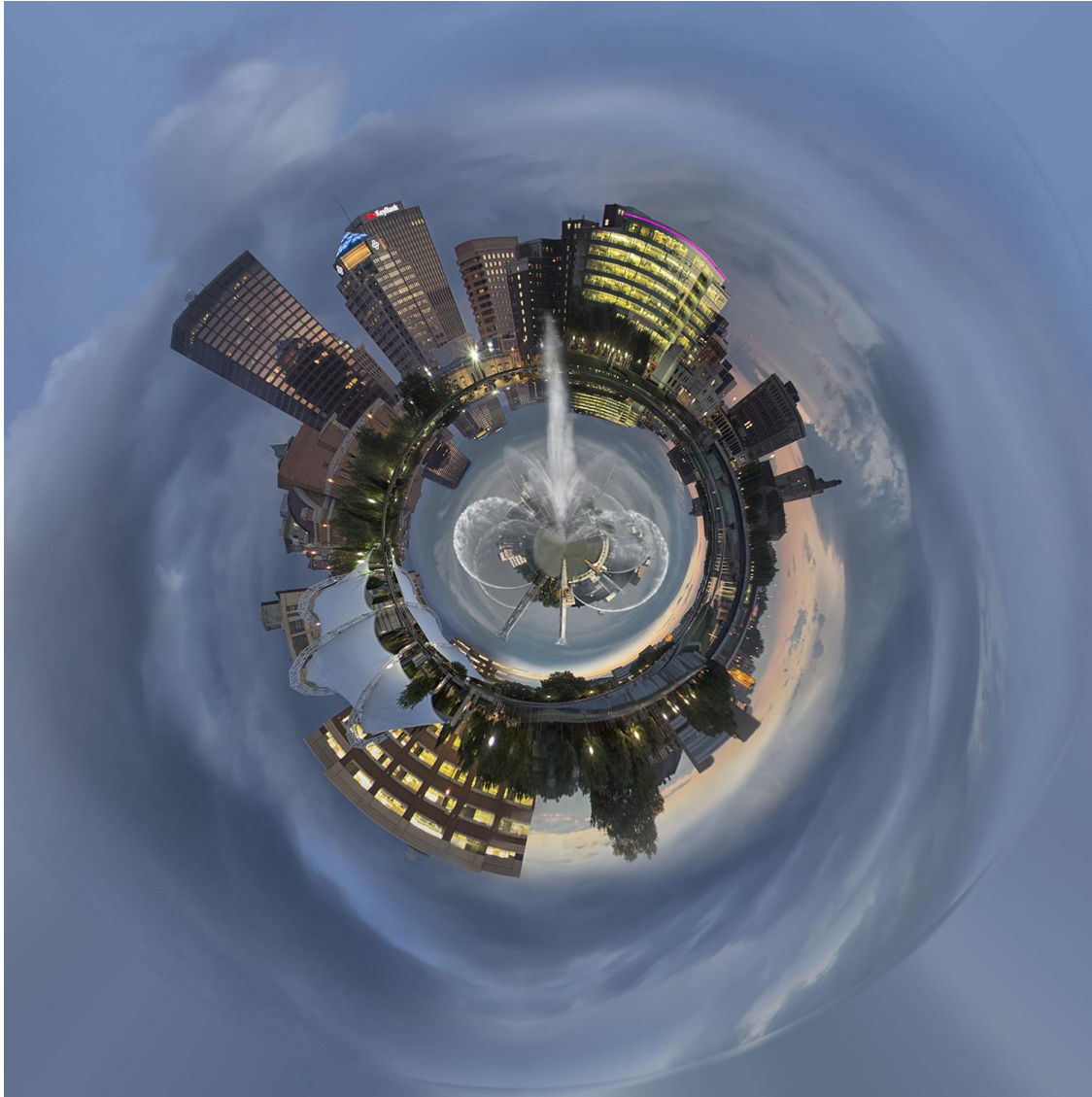




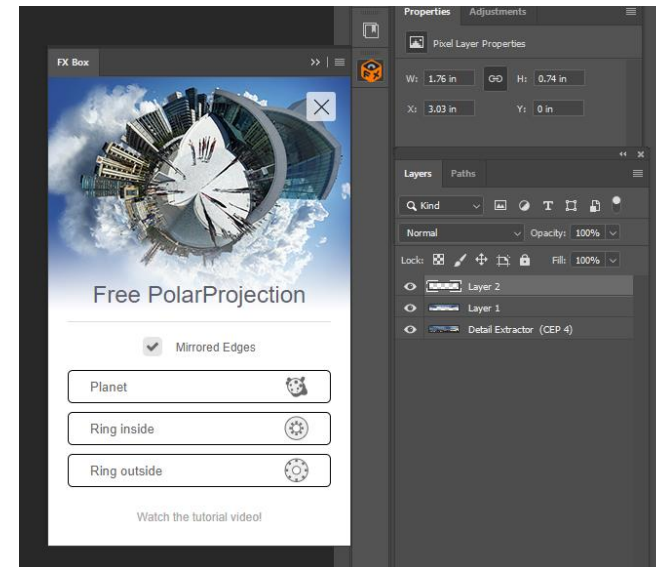
...and have more fun by rotating it! :)

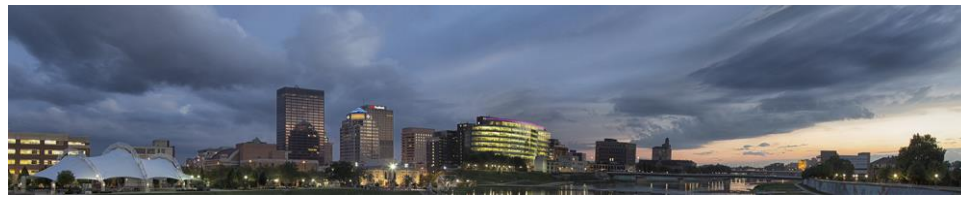
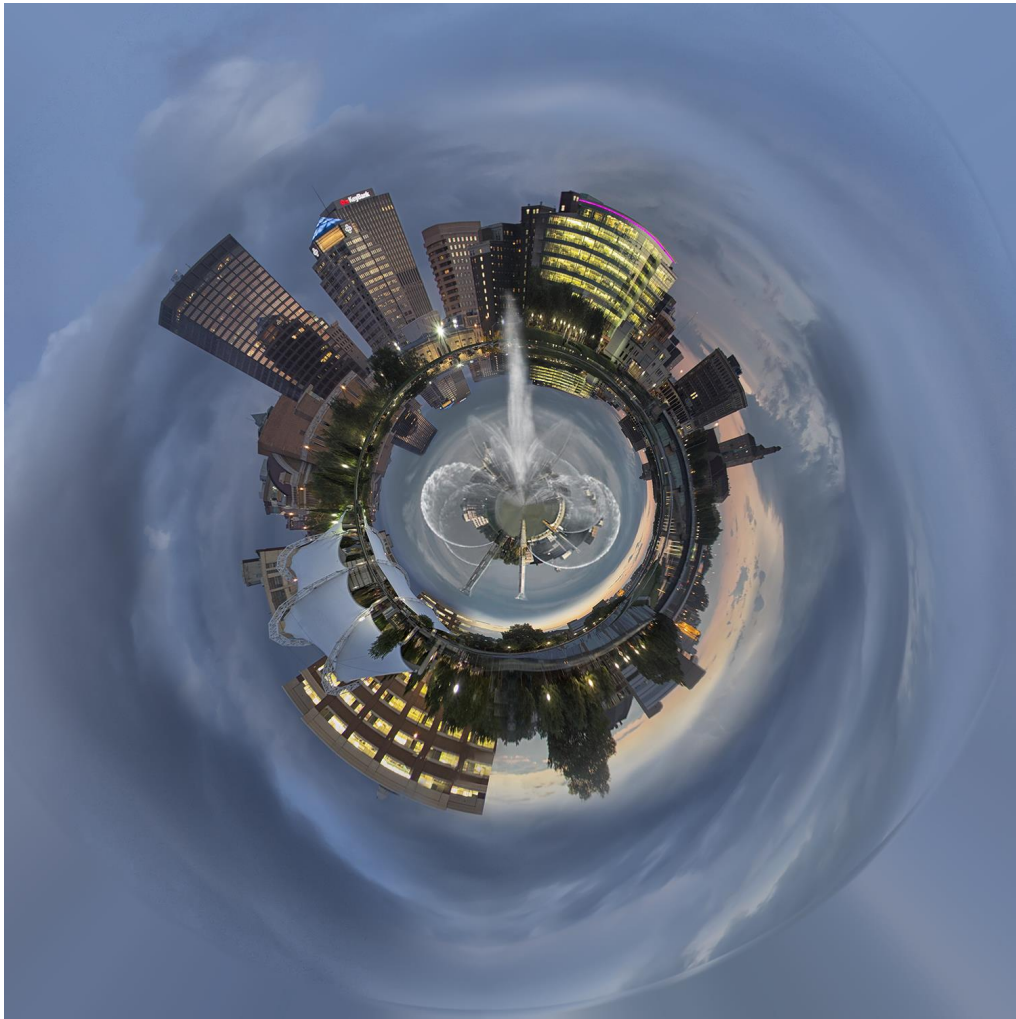


3. Extreme Photo Manipulation – ‘Planets’

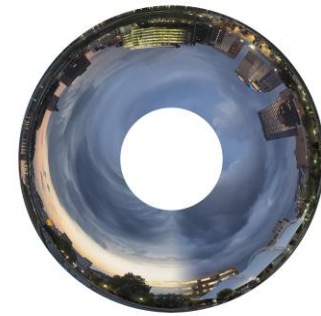


1. <https://digital-photography-school.com/make-little-planet-using-photoshop/>
Step by step using Photoshop
2. https://www.the-orange-box.com/portfolio_page/free-polarprojection/
Free Polar Projection Download





These are the original 2 images I used for the composite



What makes this image unique is I strayed from the traditional 'one and done' approach.

I made the main planet, an inner ring planet, and added an extra planet with the landmark feature of Dayton's Riverscape.

Combining and blending the images required many, many edits to get the effect I was after.

Learn New Things By Following Tutorials...

My Version by Following the Tutorial



Create a Coffee Cake Photo Manipulation
By Stephen Petraný 13 Feb 2012

Original by Maker of the Tutorial



<https://design.tutsplus.com/tutorials/create-a-coffee-cake-photo-manipulation--psd-15873>

3. Photo Manipulations *Computer Generated Graphics*



'Twirl' manipulations

<https://www.photoshopessentials.com/photo-effects/twirl-art-effect/>

Would Not Be Allowed in Competition

**...but you could use the 'twirl' as part of a background
and combine with another image**

4. Real Image versus Imagined Image



4. Real Image versus Imagined Image



I would not consider this Altered Reality



4. Real Image versus Imagined Image

'Code Blue'



5. Lens Ball Variations – Make Your Own Lens Ball!



Traditional Lens Ball Image

...zzzzzzzz (make snoring sound)

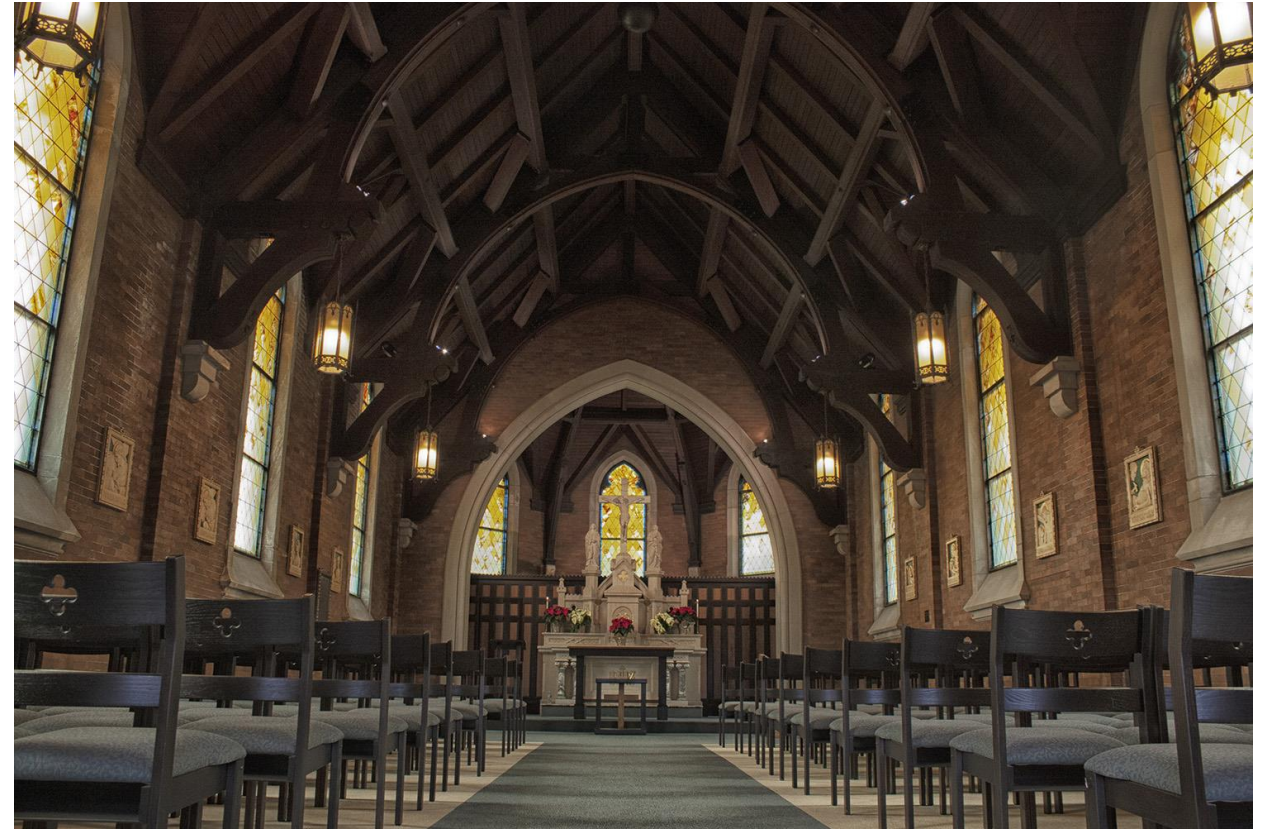


Make Your Own Lens Ball Image!!!

Making your own lens ball image

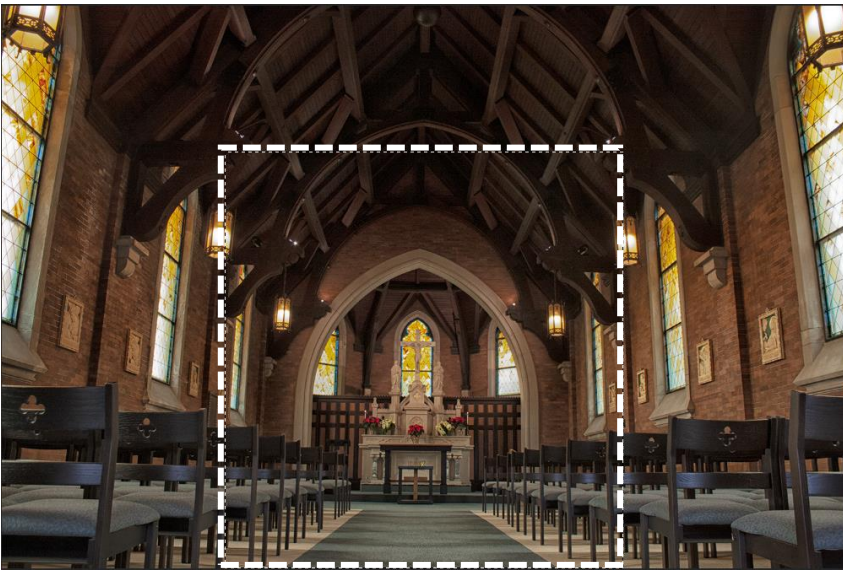


Variation using the 'lens ball' concept

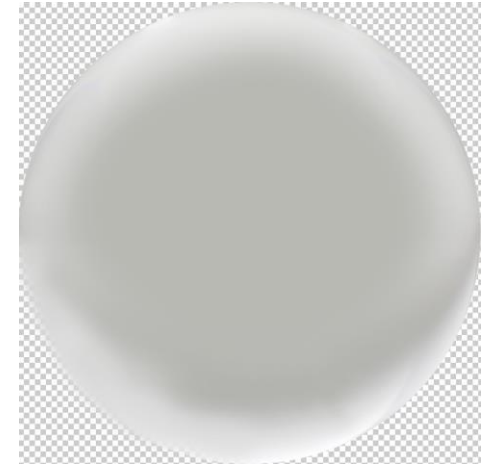


Chapel at Calvary Cemetery

Manipulating the image to 'make' a lens ball



I copied part of the image

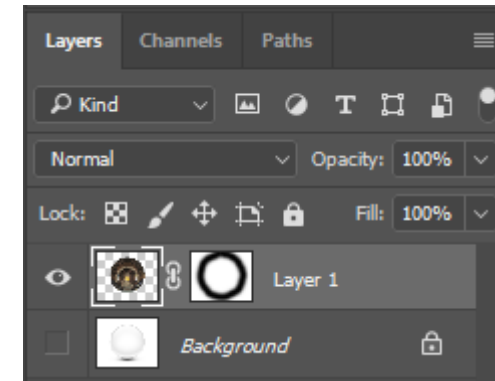
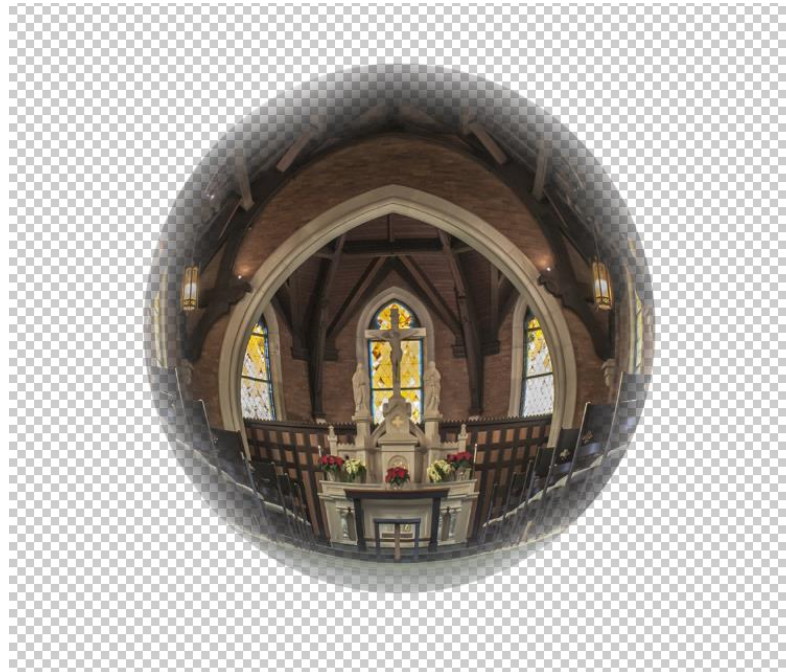


I made a lens ball with the elliptical marquee tool and then painted it

I used Select, Edit, Copy, Paste, Transform, Warp, then **Fisheye** (found under 'Custom') to make the image fit into the lens ball.

Layer Mask - used to erase edges

I also added a shadow to the bottom.



I used a mask to erase the edges to help it look like a real lens ball.



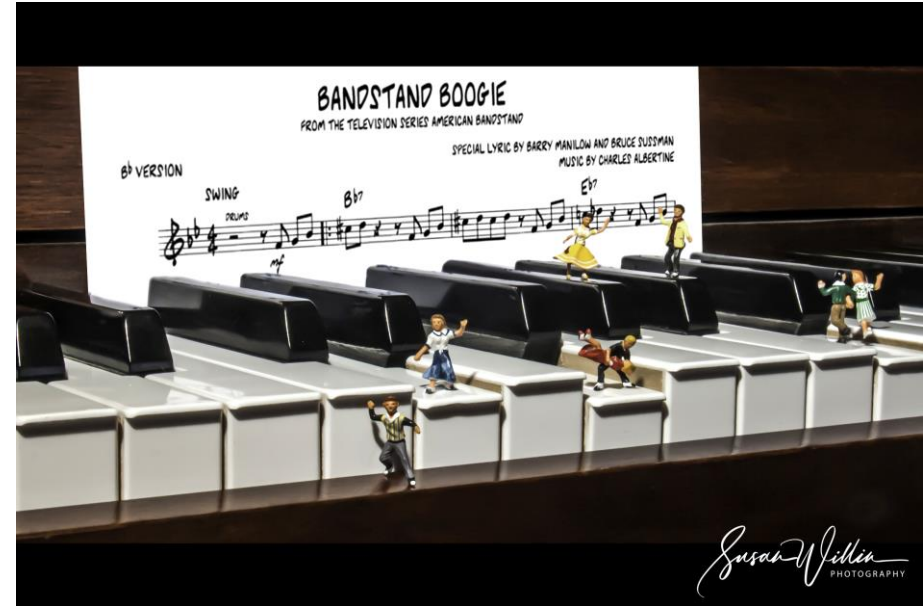
6. Real People Miniatures!

Considered Altered Reality



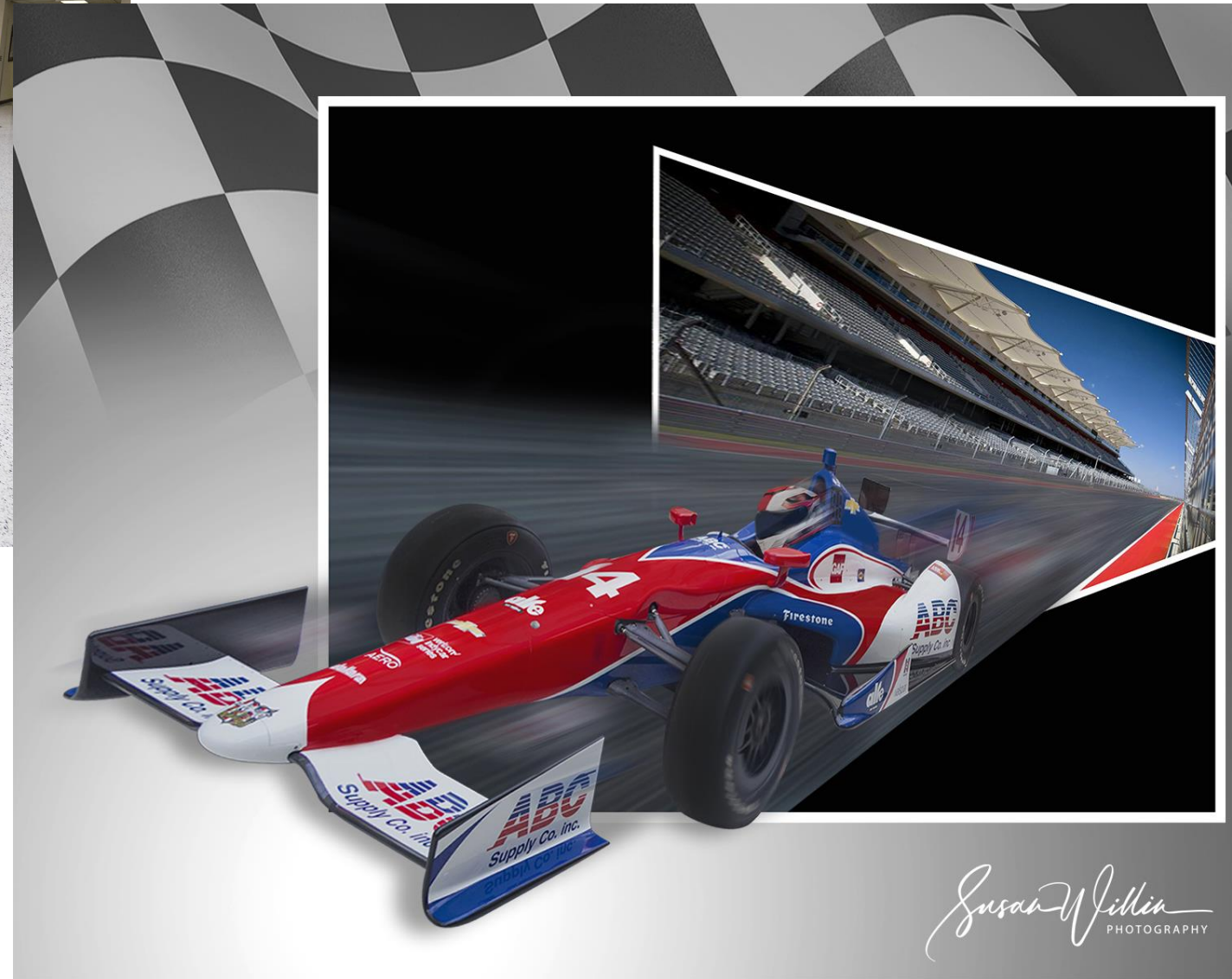
'Peeling Apple Ski Resort'

Not Altered Reality, But Fun!

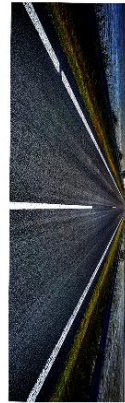
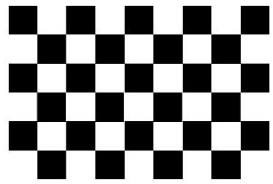


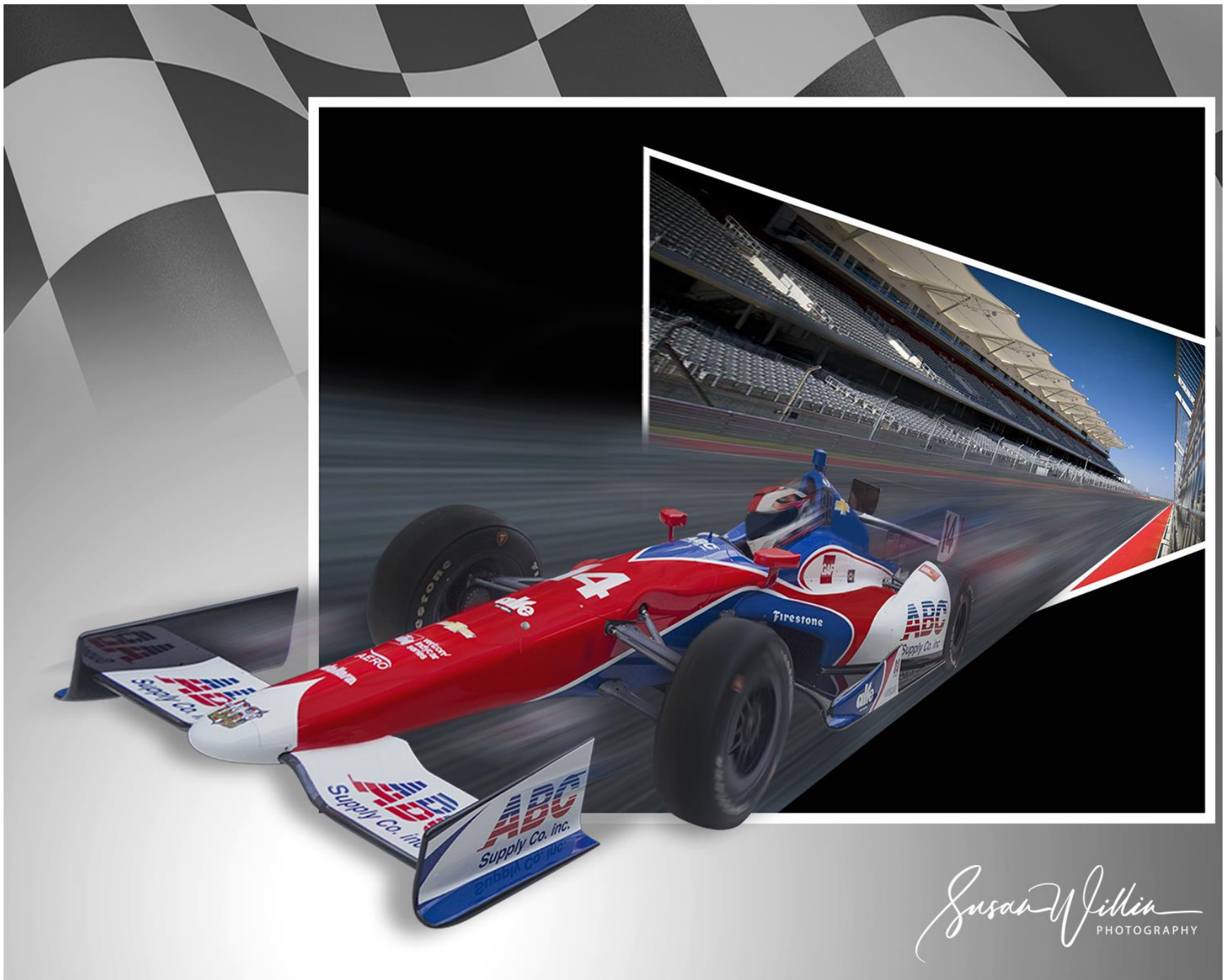
Susan Wilkin
PHOTOGRAPHY

7. Out of Frame



Susan Wilkin
PHOTOGRAPHY





Susan Willin
PHOTOGRAPHY

7. Out of Frame Images

'This Bud's For You'!





For tutorials, search:

Out of Frame Photoshop Manipulation

Out of Bounds Photography

Pop Out Effect in Photoshop

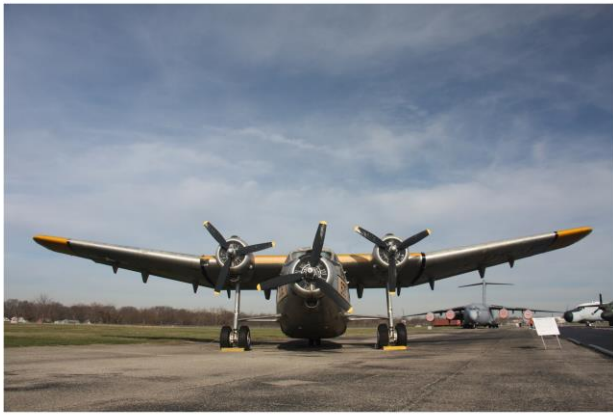
Main editing tools:

Pen Tool to cut out the horses and the truck

Made 2 different backgrounds

'Out of Frame' to add interest





7. Out of Frame Images

Look Familiar?



8. Learn New Things by shooting for the 'Club Themes'

Club Theme was 'Impossible'

'Wrong Side of the Tracks'!



Club Theme Was 'Action'



IMG_1830-2-Edit



IMG_1831-2-Edit



IMG_1833-2-Edit



IMG_1835-2-Edit



IMG_1836-2-Edit



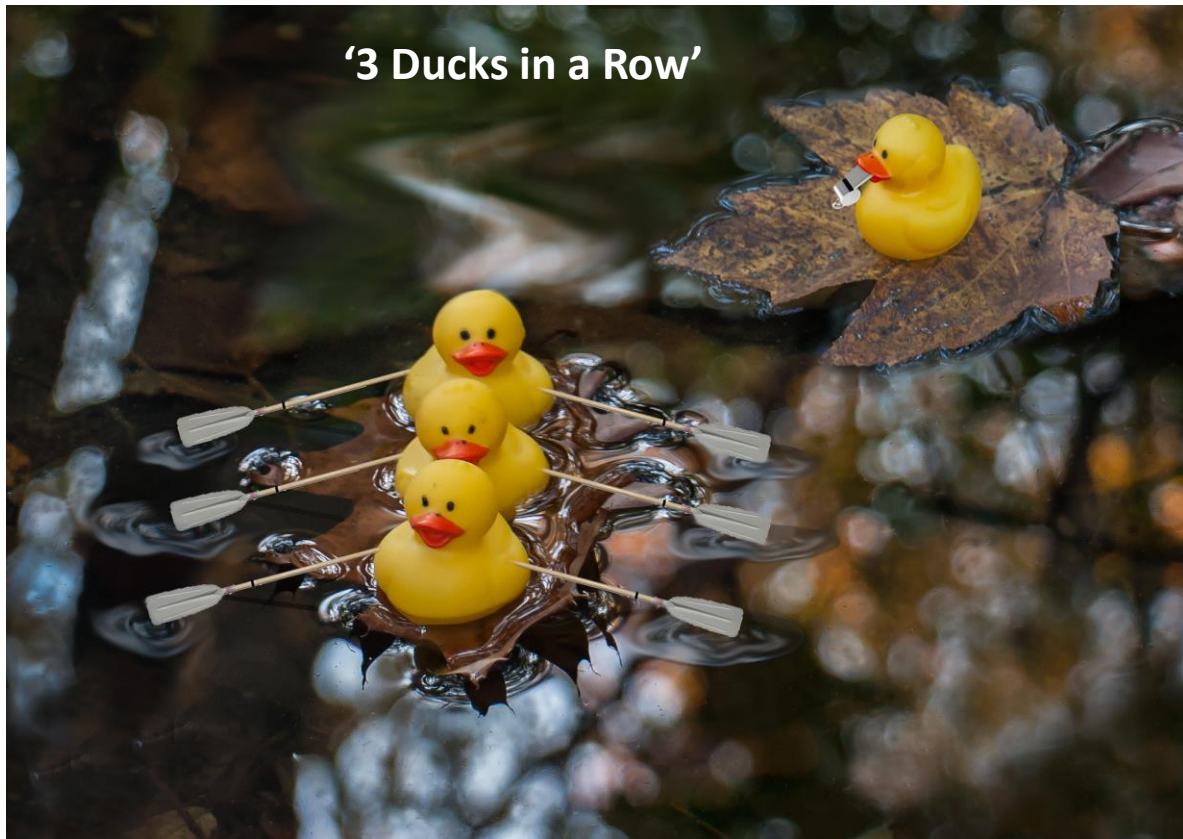
IMG_1843-3-Edit



IMG_1844-2-Edit



'3 Ducks in a Row'



Club Theme was, 'Rubber Ducks'

'Duck Story'

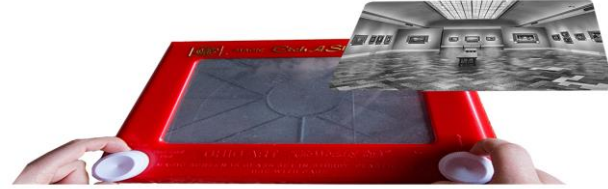


Club Theme was, 'Peeling'



Club Theme was, 'Toys'





Club Theme was, 'Food'

'Gone Fishin'



The boat is a French Fry!!! :)

Club Theme was, 'Musical Instruments'



'Grand Piano, Little Man'

Club Theme was, 'Caption This'



'Fork in Road'

Club Theme was, 'War and Peace'

