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Eye-catching imagery that inspires and challenges

The *Advanced Photoshop* team isn't going to be swayed by the nearby glistening sands and the prospect of a 99 with Flake during these summer months. Needless to say we're as enthusiastic about our Photoshop work as ever before, which is a good job as our readers have done us proud with their latest creations. We've been busy browsing through your submissions to find the best examples of your digital work.

Sending your images in to us for inclusion in Peer Pressure is an ideal way to get your name out there. You never know who's browsing through the magazine looking for new, fresh talent! There's also the opportunity to kick-start your career and see your image on the front cover.

If you'd like to see your own work on these pages, please send us low-res versions to **advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk** and we'll get back to you for more information and higher resolution copies if we want to print them. Alternatively, please log on to our forum website at **www.advancedphotoshop. co.uk** and scroll down to Peer Pressure in the Creative Projects section to post a link to your image samples.

You'll stand a better chance of seeing your work in print if you adhere to the following criteria: make sure that your images are high-quality TIFFs or JPEGs (RGB or CMYK), 300dpi minimum, and can be printed at 15cm x 15cm minimum. Don't forget to include a short text file detailing how you created your work, too.

Edward Scissorhands Bobblehead

NAME: Meowza Katz
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SOURCES: www.sxc.hu

Meowza Katz wanted to create an image that was full of fantasy, yet had a sense of reality in it. "For an image with this style and many painted elements, the Smudge Tool becomes my greatest ally." Meowza brought in rough source images to form the basic composition and then used the Smudge Tool set at varying pressure levels to give everything a painted look.

"I carried out the facial areas by roughing in certain areas of colour using the Brush Tool and then used the Smudge Tool set at a pressure of 40-50% to smooth and form the painting to my liking. For the body, parts of various action figures were used to assemble the character," Meowza tells us.

"Creating an image like this was a great lesson in freestyle Photoshop painting, where a lot of the elements need to be hand-drawn. A little background in general drawing never hurts either!"

City Skyline

NAME: Sageeporn Hannarong
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Sageeporn is a recent graduate in MA Computer Imaging in Architecture from the University of Westminster. "I created this image last Christmas when I was working on my online portfolio, so I was in a big festive mood." This image was created by filling the background with solid grey and creating a new layer with a transparent yellow gradient. Sageeporn then built another layer and created the wallpapered background on the image using a Fill>Custom Pattern. "I created the branches by overlapping a photograph and tweaking the brightness and contrast until it became black and white. The blend option of the branch layer was set to Darken, while the skyscrapers were set to Difference."


Doorway

NAME: Jamie Beer
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Jamie Beer created this image as part of a head-to-head challenge on *Advanced Photoshop*'s forum. The theme of the project was 'Doorway'. "I began by taking photographs of doorways at different angles, trying to find interesting perspectives. I didn't end up using these photographs in the image but used them to find the right composition." Once Jamie had decided on the composition he marked out the shape of the doorway with the Polygonal Lasso Tool and filled this area with black and grey. "I needed to add another aspect to the image so I chose a photo of my hand that I cut out using the Pen Tool before duplicating and transforming to form a second hand. I used a black and grey gradient map to change the colour and tone as well as adding in white shapes to make them slightly more abstract." The wallpaper was created by making a brush out of the hand shape. Finally, a beam of light was created from the door to the floor.

Body chops

NAME: Patrik Blomqvist
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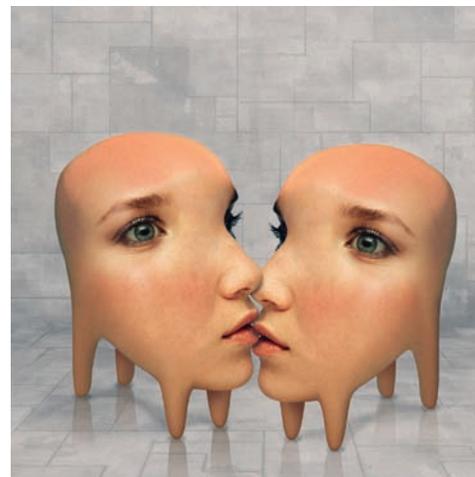
"The obvious secret behind my 'body chops' is a tripod," Patrik Blomqvist from Sweden tells us. "The possibilities are endless with a tripod and an infrared remote control." For his 'Ikea' shot Patrik took about 20 images, including an empty scene, and simply removed all the necessary parts. "This kind of image requires a bit of planning and it's quite hard work. I try to give shadows extra attention, but they are easily missed." Patrik used precision selections when getting rid of the unwanted 'parts' using the Pen Tool. His second image is a tribute to Salvador Dali. Heads and legs were moulded in Photoshop using the Liquify filter and some heavy cutting and pasting. "The scene is built from scratch using a perspective warped texture for the floor and a simple texture for the back wall. Reflections were added to create realism in this unreal image. These were duplicates of the 'legs' rotated vertically and faded. The blending mode was set to Overlay and the opacity to 40%. The shadows were painted with solid black in a separate layer and then blurred with Gaussian blur with the opacity set to around 30%."

Jammin'

NAME: Greg Tappella
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Greg Tappella created this image from source files on **www.shutterstock.com**. "I wanted to try to create a 'dirtier', more distressed version of this popular style. I copied the main images many times, posterized them and changed the threshold to retain some of the main details. On another layer I used both a Find Edges filter and High Pass. I continued to blend all of these layers together until I can up with something that I was happy with. I then copied the layer and used the Fibers filter along with the Mezzotint filter to give it the textured look I had hoped for."
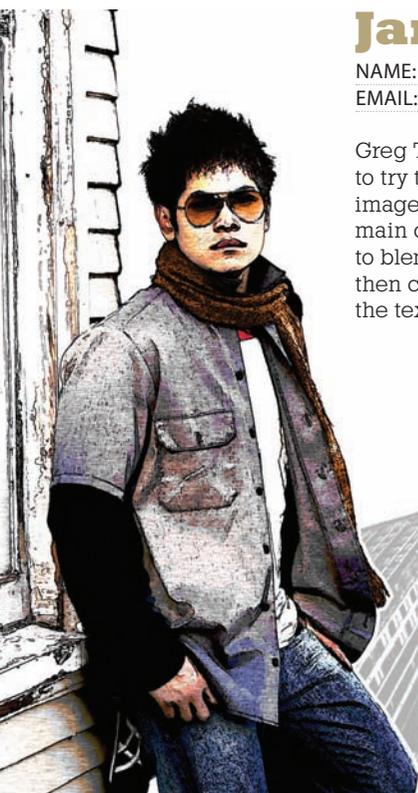
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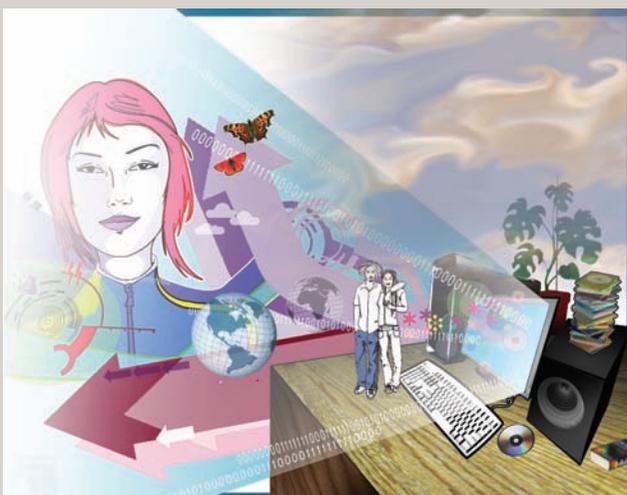
Vibrant illustrations

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Demitri Nezis is a practising freelance illustrator who is now based in London after graduating from the University of Portsmouth, where he studied illustration. Demitri developed his design skills after a stint as a street artist and graffiti writer in Athens, where he was brought up. This style has a strong influence in his digital creations. "Street art is free for everyone. I see the urban landscape as a gallery, it's the best way of getting everyday people closer to art." Demitri's past projects have involved working with the Hellenic Air Force in Athens and taking part in an art project at Japan's Design Fiesta Gallery in Tokyo.