

peer pressure

Eye-catching imagery that inspires and challenges

We showcase the best examples of Photoshop work we've been sent this last month. The next few pages show off a fantastic mixture of individual styles and techniques.

Do you think you could impress us enough to get your images showcased within this section next month? Well you won't get showcased if you don't send your images in! Getting your images in print is an ideal way to get your name out there. We always ensure we print your contact details and web address so anyone who's interested in your work can quickly get in touch with you.

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



MOONLIT WALK: Kyle ventured out at night to capture the images he needed to produce this image



LEFT: This image used a total of 16 images, a variety of Blending Modes and a lot of imagination!

DESKTOP: Kyle is reminded of the beauty of Photoshop everytime he glances at this image on his desktop



Forgive

NAME: Nash Francisco

EMAIL: nash_francisco@hotmail.com

Nash is a graduate with a BFA in Visual Communications. At the moment he makes money in masonry, while he works on a portfolio and promotional material for a job as a designer or illustrator. "I'm from the countryside where the nearest store serves as a deli, grocery store and post office. So my goal is saving money to go to a city. However, the countryside has been a great place to be really creative, study and put together a nice personal studio."

Nash took the source photograph for this image a few years back and always thought that it was "beautiful" and "magic". Colour correction was carried out using the Levels command and Thresholds. The next step was to use the airbrush, copying the corrected image and applying a Dust and Scratches filter to smooth out all the features. "It's good practice to use a small brush and work in a dabbing technique, while being careful not to remove parts of the mask that would smooth out the features that should remain intact with a good amount of detail," Nash explains.



Facing it

NAME: Graeme Mc Allister

EMAIL: graeme@remedymedia.co.uk

WEB: www.remedymedia.co.uk

Graeme McAllister is a 25-year old practicing artist and designer based in the city of Newry, Northern Ireland. He has just completed a degree in Multimedia in June 2006 and is currently running his own design company called Remedy Media.

"My art is mainly symbolic in nature, due to my interest in mythology and psychology. I've always been particularly inspired by the Surrealist movement and fantasy art." Graeme names his two favourite artists as being Susan Seddon Boulet and Salvador Dali. "I enjoy blending diverse and seemingly unconnected imagery into something new," he explains, "I also place a heavy emphasis on colour in my work and use this to capture the intended mood." 'Facing it' was composited in Photoshop using Dodge layers for lighting. "I then over-painted using Project Dogwaffle and a Wacom graphics table to achieve the hand-painted look. The image is about how people in modern society are always seeking something without knowing what it is."



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Safari

NAME: Kyle Parr

EMAIL: kyleparrdesign@hotmail.co.uk

Kyle Parr is a 19-year-old student currently studying A levels in Graphic Design and Media Studies. He began using Photoshop a little over a year ago, and immediately loved the idea that he was able to turn his photographs into anything he wanted. "I work by thinking 'I wonder how it would look if...'" Kyle tells us. "I try many different things with each image until I find something I like. I often use a large number of layers, layer masks and adjustment layers." To create the giraffes on the bridge, Kyle took his camera out late at night on to the motorway bridge and put it on a tripod using a 30 second exposure. "When I got home I opened the images in Photoshop and just sat for a while staring at my pictures. I started to think what could be done with them. I found a picture of two giraffes which I had taken earlier in the year at Chester Zoo."

The chimp image was created by layering different photographs on top of one another and altering the Blending Modes. All in all Kyle used 16 photographs in total. "I made the elephants as a background for my desktop on my home computer. I got the idea after seeing a photograph of a sunset. I started by drawing a circle with the Marquee Tool and filling it with a gradient. I made a selection on a new layer and filled it with black that I used to create the ground. I used a grass-shaped brush to brush in some grass. The trees and elephants were then added by using some pictures that I took at the zoo. These were cut out and coloured black. The clouds were added by using cloud-shaped brushes."



Merging mediums

NAME: David Carron

EMAIL: david@avadav.com

WEB: <http://avadav.com>

David Carron is a student currently studying at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His interest in art started out as simple pencil drawings, and as he grew older he merged the traditional art medium along with his newly discovered technological skills. Since then he has been using Photoshop on almost all of his work. "From adjusting levels on drawings, to creating images from scrap, the possibilities are endless. I have been using Adobe Photoshop for about five years now and there really isn't anything I don't know how to do in the program. The hard part is finding a creative touch to ideas you're wanting to execute."



WHITE BIRD PLANT: "I started out with a blank image, and carefully chose what colours I wanted to use. From there the Pen Tool was used to make a selection of all the objects. The colouring was done under the line layers, and a few objects were actually reused with different Blending Modes, then placed elsewhere in the image. The image gives off a fine-point feel since most of the lines are very small and end up converging at key spots"





Sam skeleton

NAME: Darius Portilla
EMAIL: dariusjulian@aol.com

Darius is an avid reader of *Advanced Photoshop* magazine. He currently teaches high school mathematics while attending The Art Institute of Houston for Interactive Media and Design. "I've been using Photoshop for two years now and your magazine definitely helps keep me at the head of my class. I only have one more quarter left to go until I graduate, so now I'm preparing myself for one last big push. With the help of your magazine I feel like I'm adequately prepared when it comes to image manipulation."

AMOEBIC: This image was a collaborative effort with my friend Mike Harrison (destill.net). The image was first sent to me with most of the foundations already laid out. The background was a stock image and was heavily edited to support Mike's additions. Many masks and Blending Modes were used to show off the full range of colours



OPEN EXPRESSION: "This image was created for the Oxygenetic Artgroup I'm part of. The theme for the art release was 'freestyle'. One particular idea I wanted to get across was the mixture of both traditional drawing skills and digital manipulation. This then laid the foundations for an image that would portray a freestyle creation in the making"



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 15 x 15cm minimum. Don't forget to include a short text file detailing how you created your work, too.