

convincing composites

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objectives

In Project 2, the Photoshop project in this course, **you will create a portrait composite of a human body and an animal head** like those shown below.

The animal and pose are your choice. It is suggested the portrait consist of **mid-body/shoulders up to head**, though a full body portrait may be accepted if professor agrees it will be successful.



Artwork by Jolanta Meskauskiene

Artwork by @ZevenDesign

OTHER RULES/EXPECTATIONS:

- The composite should show considerable attention to construction via: Layers, Effects and/or Filters, Textures, and Colorization.
- Elements should be effectively arranged and create a unified composition and a compelling, clear, and powerful image.
- A.I. is not allowed to create any artwork unless professor first approves.
- No text is allowed. Only visuals may be used.
- The composition and concept must be original to you alone.
- All images must be free for personal use or public domain.
- **Remember to keep all work from all steps to document process in Behance post.**
- Work must not be pixelated due to resolution being too low. Screenshots or photos with low resolution will be pixelated when printed.
- Photos should be white balanced or have color temperatures/exposures as design choice.
- Project should be edited with a high degree of effectiveness.
- All elements should blend smoothly (no rough or hard edges visible) unless for effect.








As explained in the syllabus, grade sheets will be returned with rubrics and brief comments. By each rubric point, CR, 1/2 CR, or No CR will be listed. The numerical equivalent would be:












CR = 100% | 1/2 CR = 50% | No CR = 0%

- Directions were followed accurately.
- Participation in all class discussions and critiques.
- Significant progress and effort made in and out of class.
- Professional communication with professor, including thoughtful questions and active listening with note-taking.
- All work is presented with maturity and professionalism at every step required.
- All work turned in on time or before due date(s)
 - 2A: Research + Ideation
 - 2B: Base Portrait
 - 2C: Accessorize
 - 2D: Change Background
 - 2E: Prints
 - Project 2 Behance
- Correct usage of Adobe Photoshop.
- Tools listed in [Photoshop Requirements](#) explored.
- File built to specifications using the tools required.
- Final composite shows considerable attention to construction via:
 - Layers Colorization
 - Textures Effects and/or Filters
- File saved correctly with all layers intact.
- File printed correctly.
- Behance post completed as directed, including thoughtful writing that has [no spelling or grammar mistakes](#) and answers and all posted images according to requirements in each of the following:
 - Summary Final Work
 - Goals Knowledge Gained
 - Process

photoshop requirements

The following is a list of Photoshop skills/tools learned so far in this course that you should be able to do on your own with a few reminders. Like any other skill, software use takes repeated use for it to be easy. See slides on Canvas for class demonstrations and assignments. Many things may also be learned from a quick Google Search or using the Photoshop Help menu.

- ❑ Photoshop interface.
- ❑ Image : Image Size
- ❑ "Photoshop Math"
 - > Width x Height x Resolution
- ❑ Saving your work
- ❑ Moving work around  
- ❑ Polygonal Lasso 
- ❑ Edit : Transform choices
 - > Scale, Rotate, Distort, and Warp
- ❑ Image : Adjustments
 - > we covered Curves, Brightness/Contrast, Hue/Saturation, and Black & White
 - > do this on a layer or use to affect a layer
- ❑ Window : Layers
 - ❑ Adding, Duplicating, Moving, Locking/Unlocking Layers
 - ❑ Layer Blending Modes and Opacity
- ❑ Cropping 
- ❑ Eyedropper 
- ❑ Type tool (and Window : Character) 
- ❑ Brush tool (size, hardness, opacity) 

- ❑ Dodge 
- ❑ Burn 
- ❑ Sharpen 
- ❑ Smudge 
- ❑ Eraser 
- ❑ History Brush 
- ❑ Filters (we covered Motion Blur - lots more!)
- ❑ Layers - Vector Mask 
- ❑ Selecting objects:
 - ❑ Object Selection 
 - ❑ Select : All
 - ❑ Quick Mask* (Q) and paint to select
- ❑ Edit : Fill : Content-Aware Fill
- ❑ Clone Stamp 
- ❑ Spot Healing Brush
- ❑ Healing Brush 
- ❑ Liquify 
- ❑ Content-Aware Fill

* Only briefly covered.

The first day of the project will involve an Ideation/Brainstorm Day workshop as students come up with ideas individually and in groups, in both written and visual formats.

>> **Document as much as you can to later show on your [Behance](#) page.**

INDIVIDUAL + GROUP IDEATION: VERBAL

1: We will begin this project with individual ideation/brainstorming to develop a narrative. Start by jotting down your initial ideas in your sketchbook to respond to the prompts.

2: Then students will be guided in groups to discuss further about how to express ideas and audience reception. >> *Some of the best ideas are born from discussion with our peers. Build each other up. Help each other thrive.*

PROMPTS:

- What themes could you explore in this work?
Examples of themes include adversity, freedom, social change, social constructs, heroes, humans and the environment, identity, industry, progress, decay, growth, etc.
- What feeling(s) do you want to convey in this work?
- What imagery or visual cues will you use to communicate this feeling? How can [symbolism](#) be used in this work? Review **Accessorize** and **Change Background** to inform your thought process.

All of the above can be considered as you think about answers to the following:

- » What do certain animals and/or human expressions convey?
- » How can environments and costumes convey meaning or [societal constructs](#)?
- » How does color affect your story?
- » Assuming the animal has eyes, are they looking at the viewer or are they avoiding eye contact? Also, the eyes can become "more human" for emotional messaging!
- » What about hands/claws/fins/paws/etc.? Are they engaging with the viewer or the edges of the frame – or are they doing something to the subject itself?
- » What else????

INDIVIDUAL IDEATION: VISUAL

3: Students will be guided in class on multiple rounds of visual ideation. Quality of sketches is not as important as the quality of ideas explored. Students can also start viewing free stock photo sites to inform possibilities to create the hybrid creature and its world.

Consider the project requirements of the project as you sketch ideas:

- **Animal head and human body.**
- **At least 2 accessories.**
- **In an environment, so consider the background.**

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

Attendance in workshop on **Thurs Mar 6** is necessary for work due.

Take sharp, clear pictures of all work and upload to Canvas Discussion



[2A Ideation Evidence JPGs](#)

Follow directions on the Canvas page.

2A Ideation Evidence JPGs

Take clean, clear photos of your workshop output. Make sure each file is saved as a JPG in Photoshop to post here.

Each student then post once with the following images:

- Scribbles/Sketches from **Individual Verbal Ideation Exercises**
- Scribbles/Sketches from **Group Verbal Ideation Exercises**
- Scribbles/Sketches from **Individual Visual Ideation Exercises**

Remember to **Upload** the images (don't Attach) and **manually size down each** in Canvas by clicking and then dragging a corner of the image so they are not huge on a computer screen. It should look something like this.

Pictures of pages would look something like this, but obviously be relative to this project's subject matter.



Note: There is no separate "Assignment" for this step because the file type is viewable on Canvas, unlike Photoshop PSD files.

One idea will be picked either in class or at the start of the next class for student to proceed.

base portrait

FINDING SOURCE FILES

After professor approves idea from the first step, student should continue with one creation for credit. This project will be printed, so it is important to use high resolution photos for all parts of this project when starting. Screenshots or photos with low resolution will be pixelated when printed. Instead, select one animal photo and one human photo from a free stock photo repository, like unsplash.com, pexels.com, and pixabay.com.

FILE CREATION

- File Name: **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2.psd**. (Photoshop native file type.)
 - Image Size: **8 inches** x **10.5 inches**
 - Resolution: **150 PPI** (no more, no less)
 - Color Mode: **RGB, 16-Bit**

PHOTOSHOP SKILLS

Use Photoshop to mask the animal head onto the human body so that it looks real. How?

- Consider all that you have learned in the in-class Assignments so far. Apply these skills to execute what you have in your mind.
- See the suggested skills/tools listed in [Photoshop Requirements](#) when creating artwork.
 - » Masking is only the first step. Also, ensure the blend looks realistic.
 - » Remember to use many layers. Layers are your friend in Photoshop! As you add layers, remember to label them well for a clean file build.
 - » [This video](#) (up until 24:17) provides help, though it introduces new tools/layer controls.

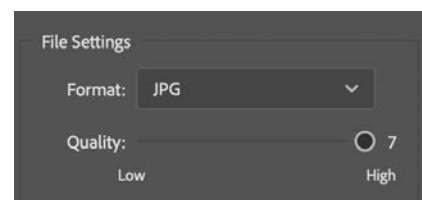
SAVE + BACK UP

1. When finished, save the **PSD** file again.

2. Then **File : Export**.

Choose a **JPG** at the **highest quality**. 

Name this file **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2B.jpg**.



3. Finally, back up your files to a free online location like A-State OneDrive or Google Drive.

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

Work will be completed in class on **Tues Mar 11**.

All work **DUE** by **11am** on **Thurs Mar 13**.

- **Canvas Assignment:**

Upload correctly-named PSD file.

- **Canvas Discussion:**

Follow directions on this Canvas page.



SHARE > 2B Base Portrait JPG & Sources

After uploading your final PSD file in the Assignment module for this step, then save it as a **JPEG** directed in the project sheet.

Each student then post once with the following images.

> 1 Screenshot of both original animal image and original human image by each other.

> 1 JPG of work from this day.

Remember to **Upload** the images (don't Attach) and **manually size down each** in Canvas by clicking and then dragging a corner of the image so they are not huge on a computer screen.

It should look something like this, except your work from the day probably has a background unless you decided to remove it now >>>



Do not proceed to next step until this step has been discussed and approved.

2C accessorize

On the second day of working on this file, we will accessorize.

Open **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2.psd**. As you add layers, remember to label them well for a clean file build.

- Use stock photos and layer masks to add **at least two accessories** to your composite.

These could be:

- » **Jewelry**, like watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces. These could be made with jewels, body parts, flowers and vines, other animals, etc. What do things mean?
- » **Headwear**, like crowns, bows, baseball or cowboy hats, military helmets, floating halos or light or flying insects/small birds, headphones, veils of all sorts, shower caps, stocking caps, etc. What these mean or how do they hint at a story?
- » **Clothes!** Is it a leather jacket with chains or a sparkling evening gown? Maybe it's a wedding dress to go with the veil you attached. Maybe it's a nun's habit or an urbanized, respectful expression of Ganesha. Or maybe it's camouflage gear or just comfortable pj's for a night in.
- » **What are they holding?** Maybe that night in requires some steaming hot chocolate. Or perhaps it's about having spectacles, a stack of book, and a candle to read. OR maybe you feel a smartphone and sunglasses are enough to get by in the world.
- » **What else?**

- Use the Burn and Dodge tools, Blend modes, Adjustment layers, the History Brush, and more to adjust colors, highlights, and shadows to make the composite look as realistic as possible.

SAVE + BACK UP

1. When finished, save the **PSD** file again.
2. Then **File : Export**.
Choose a **JPG** at the **highest quality**.
Name this file **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2C.jpg**.
3. Finally, back up your files to a free online location like A-State OneDrive or Google Drive.

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

Work will be completed in class on **Thurs Mar 13**.

All work **DUE** by **11am** on **Tues Mar 18**.

- **Canvas Assignment:**
Upload correctly-named PSD file.
- **Canvas Discussion:**
Follow directions on this Canvas page.



SHARE > 2C Accessorize JPG (Before & After)

After uploading your final PSD file in the Assignment module for this step, then **save it as a JPG** as directed in the project sheet.

Each student then post once with the following images.

> 1 JPG of work from the previous step.

> 1 JPG of work from this day.

Remember to **Upload** the images (don't Attach) and **manually size down each** in Canvas by clicking and then dragging a corner of the image so they are not huge on a computer screen. It should look something like this.

It should look something like this, except with your own artwork and probably still with background(s):



Do not proceed to next step until this step has been discussed and approved.

2D change background

On the third day of working on this file, we will see how a background can add to the visual. Change the background of your image by importing additional stock photos and using masks. Also, add additional elements to your composite to make the image more interesting.

In portraiture, a “background” refers to the area behind the main subject in a painting or photograph, which provides context, depth, and can contribute to the overall mood and story being told about the individual depicted in the portrait; essentially, it sets the scene where the subject is situated. Things to consider:

- » **Context and Story:** The background can hint at the subject’s profession, lifestyle, or location, adding depth to their portrayal. However, don’t be so detailed that your animal/human hybrid becomes secondary.
- » **Mood Setting:** The colors, textures, and lighting of the background can significantly impact the mood of a portrait.
- » **Visual Interest/Focal Control:** A well-designed background can enhance the composition by adding enough visual interest to prevent the portrait from looking flat. A simple or blurred background can help draw the viewer’s attention directly to the subject’s face.

Open **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2.psd**. As you add layers, remember to label them well for a clean file build.

- Use the Burn and Dodge tools, Blend modes, Adjustment layers, the History Brush, and more to adjust colors, highlights, and shadows to make the composite look as realistic as possible.

SAVE + BACK UP

1. When finished, save the **PSD** file again.
2. Then **File : Export**.
Choose a **JPG** at the **highest quality**.
Name this file **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj2D.jpg**.

3. Finally, back up your files to a free online location like A-State OneDrive or Google Drive.

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

Work will be completed in class on **Tues Mar 18**.

All work **DUE** by **11am** on **Thurs Mar 20**.

- **Canvas Assignment:**
Upload correctly-named PSD file.



- **Canvas Discussion:**
Follow directions on this Canvas page.

SHARE > 2D Change Background JPG (Before & After)

After uploading your final PSD file in the Assignment module for this step, then save it as a **JPG** as directed in the project sheet.

Each student then post once with the following:

- > **1 JPG** of work from the previous step.
- > **1 JPG** of work from this day.
- > **Brief explanation** of what elements were added and why you did this. Check your spelling and grammar!

Remember to **Upload** the images (don't Attach) and **manually size down each** in Canvas by clicking and then dragging a corner of the image so they are not huge on a computer screen. It should look something like this.

It should look something like this, plus the brief explanation:



Do not proceed to next step until this step has been discussed and approved.

2 E final files

Make any final changes you would like to ensure your work is perfect. Then turn in the final files and be ready to print.

SAVE + BACK UP

1. When finished, save the **PSD** file again.
2. Then **File : Export**.
Choose a **JPG** at the **highest quality**.
Name this file **YOUR LAST NAME_Proj-FIN.jpg**.
3. Finally, back up your files to a free online location like A-State OneDrive or Google Drive.

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

All work **DUE** by **11:30am** on **Thurs Mar 20**.

- **Canvas Assignment:**
Upload correctly-named PSD file.
- **Canvas Discussion:**
Follow directions on this Canvas page.



[SHARE > Final File JPG](#)



[PROJ 2E: Final File > PSD](#)

0 pts

SHARE > Final File JPG

After uploading your final PSD file in the Assignment module for this step, then save it as a **JPG** as directed in the project sheet.

- Each student then post once with their final piece as a **JPG**.
- Also, briefly explain anything else you adjusted.

Remember to **Upload** the images (don't Attach) and **manually size down each** in Canvas by clicking and then dragging a corner of the image so they are not huge on a computer screen.

It would be just one image like this, plus any explanation:



On **Thurs Mar 20**, we will discuss printing the final files.

Students will be required to prepare their file to print both to the LIB-340 printer and to a printer off-campus like FedEx-Office. Directions to come on this day.

Once prints are received, students must use skills learned in the Picture Perfect Assignment to take high-quality photo(s) of their work and retouch the best one in Photoshop. This image will be due on Behance.

All work from this day is also **DUE** in the final Behance post, which documents the entire process.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

All work **DUE** by **11:30am** on **Tues Apr 1**.

Directions to come.

Save all steps of this project, and be ready to write a brief explanation of your design choices and self-evaluation. Your Behance page will be updated with each project.

» To **EXPLAIN**

FIRST, write all of this out in a document that can **check your grammar and spelling** (Word, Pages, Google Docs, etc.). **THEN** copy : paste the text and insert images in one sitting on Behance. This way you avoid the internet suddenly crashing midway and losing information that wasn't yet cached.

» To **SHOW**, take screenshots.

See Canvas **1: Introduction > SLIDES + RESOURCES > Screenshots - How To**.

Remember that you are **telling a story to the public**, not just the professor who knows what you did and why you did it.

- » When creating the post, **you must use visual hierarchy** by making sure sections, like **SUMMARY**, are clearly defined via type weight (and/or other techniques) so the information's "chunks" are clearly defined.
- » Below are specific directions for this project's Behance page. Follow them.
Exception: The following explanation lengths are a minimum. You may write more.

SUMMARY

- **EXPLAIN** in a minimum of one paragraph (2-3 sentences):
Summarize the project and its objectives. Do not copy the project sheet. Instead, explain it like you would explain to a friend.

GOALS

- **EXPLAIN** in a minimum of one paragraph (2-3 sentences):
What did you want to learn with this project AFTER you read the preliminary (or full) project sheet. Aside from "my goal was to get an A," what did you hope to LEARN for your future use as an artist/designer/educator?

PROCESS

> IDEATION

- **EXPLAIN** in at least 2-3 sentences how you used multiple forms of ideation to come up with your chosen idea.
- **SHOW** at least the following, but also add any more that will aid your explanation.
 - » Screenshots of Verbal Ideation exercises and notes.
 - » Screenshot(s) of Visual Ideation sketches and notes.

> BASE PORTRAIT

- **EXPLAIN** in at least 2-3 sentences how you created this and with what Photoshop tools.
- **SHOW** at least the following, but also add any more that will aid your explanation.
 - » The 2 images you used to create your hybrid.
 - » The final base portrait > YOUR LAST NAME_Proj**2B**.JPG.
 - » Screenshot of your Layers palette at the completion of this step.

> ACCESSORIZE

- **EXPLAIN** in at least 2-3 sentences what you did here and with what Photoshop tools.
- **SHOW** at least the following, but also add any more that will aid your explanation.
 - » The image created at this stage > YOUR LAST NAME_Proj**2C**.JPG.
 - » Screenshot of your Layers palette at the completion of this step.

> CHANGE BACKGROUND

- **EXPLAIN** in at least 2-3 sentences what you did here and with what Photoshop tools.
- **SHOW** at least the following, but also add any more that will aid your explanation.
 - » The image created at this stage > YOUR LAST NAME_Proj**2D**.JPG.
 - » Screenshot of your Layers palette at the completion of this step.

FINAL WORK

- **EXPLAIN** in at least 2-3 sentences your final work and the printing process.
- **SHOW** your printed work in at least one sharp, clean photo [using skills you learned in Picture Perfect assignment!).

KNOWLEDGE GAINED

- **EXPLAIN** in a minimum of one paragraph (2-3 sentences):
What did you learn from this project that you will apply in your future? Be specific about something like ideation, Photoshop skills, and/or printing.

DUE > WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

Project 2 Behance post **DUE** by **7:30am** on **Thurs Apr3**.

- » Make sure your post is **published** on Behance.
- » It should be reachable via the link provided in the **INTRODUCTION : Behance Page URL** Canvas module as soon as you publish the page because that's how the internet works.

Also, go to the actual Project 2 Behance page and copy that URL.

Paste it into the discussion on



PROJ 2 Behance URL