

Combining Images

Open both images and make a selection around the image that you want to bring into the other image.

Techniques for selecting an image:

Many times I will use the color range tool under SELECT. I select the color of the object and make a rough selection. This works best if the object is one color. After this I refine the selection with the lasso tool. (The lasso tool can be used to completely select the object if you want). After I make a selection I refine it with the refine edge tool under SELECT. I feather the object 1-2 pixels and make any other necessary adjustments in this pallet.

Next you will move the object to the desired image. Once it is there you can see if it needs color adjustments, transforming, etc. In some cases the object I moved will be placed behind another object. In this case I will use a mask to convey this.

Techniques for using a mask:

At the bottom of the layers pallet there is a tool to place a mask. I place a mask on the layer that I imported in. After this I select the brush tool with black as the color. Reduce the opacity (I like it around 50% or a little less). Start masking out the parts of the object that would normally appear behind the other objects in the scene. If you mess up just switch your brush to white and paint it back in.

After this look at the image and see if it is complete. Many times if an object is placed in back of another object it will be slightly out of focus. If you brought in an image that was taken in focus it will need to be thrown out of focus. I like to use the Gaussian blur for this.

Techniques for using the Gaussian Blur:

Select the layer that is in back and needs to be thrown out of focus. Apply a couple of pixels of Gaussian blur until the image looks right. Then you are done.