



## Projects for You

This chapter is devoted to presenting you with five exercises that will allow you to try some of your new skills. The related files can be downloaded from our website, <http://www.focalpress.com/companions/digitalcollageandpainting>. Three exercises are devoted to collage and two are designed for painting practice. It's time to get your hands dirty (digitally, of course).

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### Project 1: Gridded Collage Exercise

This exercise uses Photoshop® to make a collage that relies on an underlying grid system. At our website, you will find a file that measures 13 × 19 inches, with 1-inch-square guidelines. The guidelines are the guides supplied in Photoshop under View > Extras > Show > Grid. You can eliminate them later by going to View > Extras > Show > None.

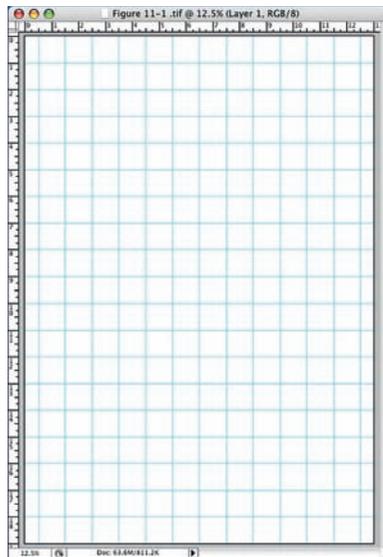
Creation lives as genesis under the visible surface of the work. All those touched by the spirit see this in retrospect, but only the creative see it looking forward.

—PAUL KLEE,  
*The Thinking Eye* (1961)

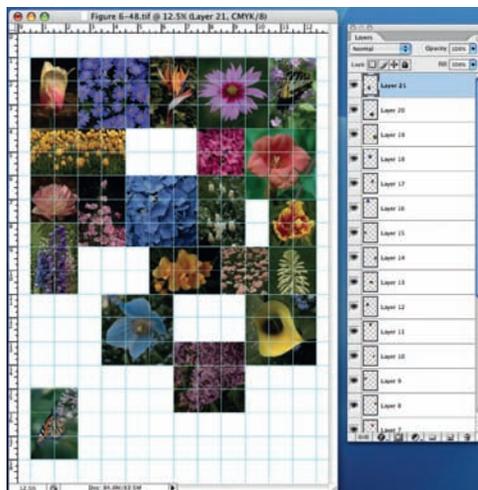
If you pull out your own nonprintable blue guidelines from the rulers on the top and side, using the Move Tool, you can eliminate them by going to View > Clear Guides.

You will also find 33 photographs of flowers that have been cropped for easy insertion. Feel free to use the flowers in any pattern that you desire. You do not need to follow my placement. Insert some of your own, if you like. Move the photographs until they snap in place along the guidelines.

When you are making a collage from your own images you will find that it might be easiest to presize them using the Crop Tool. You can set the crop to a certain size (e.g., 2 × 3 inches) to be sure that your photo is exactly the correct size.



**Figure 1**  
*Blank grid template*



**Figure 2**  
*Adding flowers using the grid system*

Move a photo of a flower over and make sure it snaps to the guideline. The easiest way to nudge the image into exact placement is to use the arrow keys on your keyboard while your Move Tool is selected. It will get complicated very quickly as the number of layers mounts up. If you begin to search for an earlier layer, try turning off the “eye” symbol on that layer to see if a layer is the one you’re looking for. Mix up the sizes of the photos and the colors of the flowers. If you inadvertently move a guide, you may want to lock your guides in place, by using View > Lock Guides.



Once all your photos are in place, zoom in and check them out before removing the guides. Slowly examine the entire collage in a very close-up view format to be sure there are no gaps present.

**Figure 3**  
*All photos are deposited into the grid*



**Figure 4**  
*"Flower Collage" completed collage using the grid technique*

You may find that once you remove the guides some tiny areas might not meet properly. Simply nudge the images closer with your Move Tool. The guidelines may have obscured the fact that they were not in proper alignment. In rare instances, you may need to add a little more width or height to an image. You can use the Free Transform Tool to lightly stretch an image or the Rubber Stamp Tool to create a few more pixels.

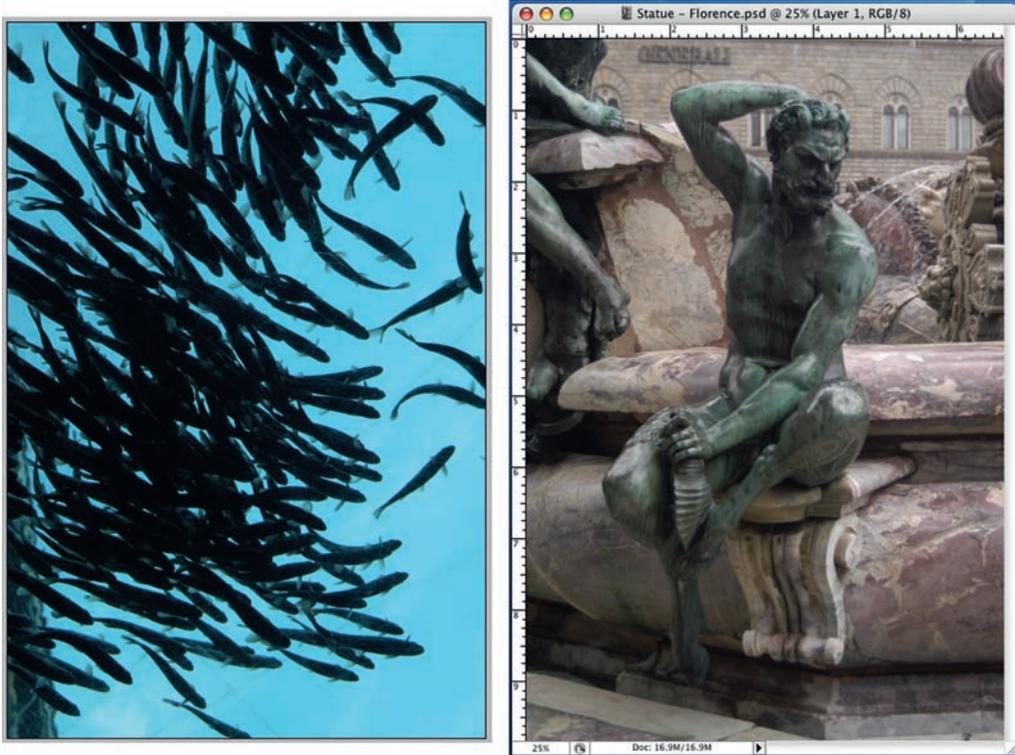
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## Project 2: Masks and Transparency Exercise

Reveal and conceal—that is the heart of masking. This exercise combines a famous nautical-themed statue in Piazza della Signoria in Florence with a school of fish from Seattle. We will use masking to set the statue into the sea and then a little transparency to add a coating of water.

Creativity is looking at a problem or a situation in a different way from everyone else, and seeing something they have missed. The trail can be cultivated by refusing to accept the obvious.

—KAORU YAMAMOTO,  
“Creativity: A Blind Man’s Report on the Elephant,” *Journal of Counseling Psychology* (Vol. 12, No. 4, 1965)



**Figure 5**  
*Original photos for collage*

Our statue from Neptune’s Fountain has a green patina and a beige background. We will eliminate the background first.