Project 1: “Portrait”

Due: Oct 2

Create a portrait using compositing techniques in Photoshop.

Think broadly about the concept of a portrait. What about your subject do you wish to convey? What is the figure/ground relationship, or the relationship between your subject and their environment? Is this a psychological portrait or an empirical portrait? A portrait from memory or from observation? A portrait of a person or a thing? A portrait of an individual or a group? What are the particular characteristics of your subject you will emphasize, and how do you as the artist feel about those traits?

As you consider these questions about how you will represent your subject, make conscious compositional choices to reinforce your meaning with color, line, shape, contrast, perspective, etc.

- Use at least 3 source images and combine them using selections, masks, and layers. You may use more images if you wish, but you must use at least 3.
- Turn in your Photoshop file (with layers) and a flattened image, saved as a JPG. For both documents, your final image should be 240dpi, and a minimum of 8 inches in the smallest dimension.
- Also write an artist statement to contextualize your project. Print it out and bring it in for your critique.

Skills:

This project will teach you: (1) fundamental elements of 2D composition; (2) beginning software techniques for digital imaging, including using layers, layer sets, layer transparency, selections, transformations, and masks; (3) to comprehend basic principles of raster graphics including resolution and color mode.

Evaluation:

As always, your work is evaluated on achievement in the 3 C’s: Concept, Creativity, and Craft. Take a risk! Why not?