Photoshop Project: I AM AWESOME

Review of selections, layers, special techniques and transformations

1. Before you begin, create a folder in your Photoshop Project folder called Me.
2. Create a new Photoshop (File, New) document. Set to width of 10 inches and height of 8 inches, 150 pixels/inch, RGB color mode. ***Save as: MeProject.psd***.
3. Obtain a minimum of five pictures of yourself. They should capture your personality, interests, etc. You must use a minimum of two of the pictures we took in groups in class. You may use some other photographs as well, but at least four must be of you alone! Save/copy those pictures into your Me folder before you begin. (REMEMBER, if you take new photos during classtime, try for a simple background so it is easier to select/remove you if it will be one of the two cutout photos)
4. On the background layer, create a unique gradient background. Though you will be adding images to this, be sure that some of the background remains uncovered so that your gradient is visible. Keep the colors in a similar family (no tie dye rainbows). If you wish to overlay a pattern, you may but it is not required.
5. Save! Save! Save!
6. Extract (select with tool of your choice and then move over) yourself from one of the photos (head and shoulders only). Bring it into the MeProject.psd document.
7. Make the photo quite large. This photo should be changed to grayscale (HINT: Quick desaturation—Shift+Control+U the layer) and somewhat transparent (HINT: Layer Opacity below 50%). It should be on a layer just above the background.
8. Save! Save! Save!
9. Bring in the photo we edited in class (with the spot color adjustment and blurred background) by using this process--- FILE, PLACE and browse to find it. It will bring it in as a Smart Object. Resize holding shift and place someplace. Add an inside stroke layer style to this photo layer in a color that matches your background. Then, add a drop shadow; make the size at least 20px. Rotate the photo slightly.
10. The other two (or more photos) should be scaled as you desire. Edit individually first. Both should be colorized OR spot color (Hue/Sat adju) or use the blur background technique (HINT: Open the picture by itself FIRST and do the adjustment layer or smart object blur technique, save it, and then use File>Place to put it in this document—don't just drag it over). Also, note, if you want to make a picture shades of one color (instead of grayscale) you can add a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and check the "Colorize" box for a nice effect.
11. At least one of the photos should be "warped" creatively (but keep it professional). Save! Save! Save!
12. Open one more picture that is at least down to the waist (can be sitting or standing and can include full body if you want, but should be about half as tall as the document). Select yourself (do this uber carefully! use multiple tools, zoom up super close, add/subtract from selection, and refine edge!) and drag yourself in to the image; add a glow or shadow (but lightly, spread it so it is diffused).
13. Decorate your images to finish it off using custom brushes as embellishment (stamps). Vary the transparency and color of the brush(es). Remember, you can load brushes from the H drive, SkinnerClasses, Photoshop. Brushes folder.
14. Save! Save! Save!
15. Add your first name in a large font, transformed using perspective or warp (remember to Rasterize the Type layer!) in some way. Add an outer glow or drop shadow layer style and make it big enough to be noticed.
16. Save!
17. Print contact sheet of all images used (should all be in ME folder—File>Automate>Contact Sheet 2).
18. Print final image. Scale to 100%--landscape. Do not resize for printing.
19. Staple all to scoring guide to turn in!
20. Save AS in JPG format in portfolio folder, and upload to portfolio in the appropriate month folder.