

# COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPHY



## WHAT IS A COMPOSITE?

It is an image that was constructed from two or more different photos. Most composites these days are done by layering images one on top of one another and then masking out the unwanted pieces using different methods. Another option is blending the layers together using various blending modes.

## HOW SHOULD YOU START?

Often students will want to immediately start shooting or messing around on the computer... Not the best choice. Plan! Go old school with pencil and paper and sketch out different ideas. You will find that the more ideas you sketch out now the better your final design will be. You may end up combining multiple sketches to create a single better idea or one idea may spawn another better idea.

Also, show your sketches and ideas to your classmates. Get their opinions and take them to heart. That doesn't mean do everything every peer says, decide what you think will work best for YOUR style and make those changes.



## WHAT SHOULD I SHOOT?

Break your project into small pieces in order to figure out what you can shoot and how all the pieces can fit together. Don't get bogged down with one idea, be creative... How can you make a root bulb into a floating land mass? Be smart about how you shoot. Is it easier to shoot on a clean white background or a busy background? This may save you a tone of time!





## TIPS

1. Keep your files/images organized.
2. If you don't know how to do something in Photoshop don't let that stop you! Ask for help. You can ask fellow students, you can ask me, you can ask uncle google...(He knows a lot!)
3. Don't be afraid to experiment! Try things if it doesn't work start again. Keep an original background layer so you can easily go back and start again.
4. Small details are very important for this project. Make sure your light matches in each different image. Make sure the images have a similar feel to them...etc.

## WHAT YOU NEED

1 completed composite. This final image should have a minimum of 2 images on separate layers in a Photoshop document. The images should be blended together seamlessly so the viewer cannot tell that you have combined two different images. You will be turning this in as a .psd document.

## LIGHTING!

Think about the angle and hardness of the light in your background plate and then try to match this in your other images. This will make your manipulation more believable.

## SCHEDULE

Thursday shoot  
 Friday edit  
 Monday edit  
 Tuesday new project/edit  
 Wednesday Critique

