

Layered Image

Your objective for this project is to work with layers and brushes to create a surreal, ghost-like image. Layers create a sense of depth in your work. Brushes add more depth, texture and variety. Your image should be something that will make viewers pause and study it for a while to see everything that is going on in the image. It should create an emotion, like a scene from a movie.



1. Browse Google for photos you want to overlap. Look for a theme as you choose images. The idea may not come to you right away. Remember to choose images that are large file (at least near 1000 pixels in one direction) so that you don't have a problem with pixilation. The above image used five images plus Photoshop Brushes used in a stamping style.
2. **Open Photoshop.** Go to **File>Open** and open each image you plan on using in your composition. They will show up in different tabs.
3. Use the marquee tool (the dotted rectangle on the top left of the tool bar) or **Select> All** to copy one image and paste it into the other. Photoshop

automatically makes a new layer when you paste. You may need to use the crop tool if the two images are not exactly the same size and shape. You can also use **Edit>Transform>Scale** to stretch the top image larger but be careful not to pixelate it.

4. Make sure that the image you want as the background is the bottom layer in your **Layers Palette**. You just drag the layers into the order you want them.
5. You may also need to remove the background of an image. To do this use the **Object Selection Tool** and choose the and drag over the object/subject you want to save and wait as Photoshop uses AI to find the edges of the selection you want. If does not select all of the object, use the **Add to Selection** option in the **Option Bar** to add any chunks it missed. You can use the **Subtract from Selection** option to erase any parts of the background it picked up in the selection. You can also use the **eraser tool** if necessary. You can also use the website - <https://www.remove.bg/>
6. Now for the magic! Select the top layer. In the **layers palette**, above the layers look for the drop down menu of **blending options**. What you see is the default of "Normal" but there are many options are under it. Try the blending options to find an effect you like. It also helps to lower the **opacity** of some of the layers. (to the right of the blending options).
7. You can also alter each layer with **Adjustment Layers** if you want to change **levels, color**, etc.
8. Find **brushes** to use in a stamping style by searching Photoshop brushes (and then the subject you want) online, or go to myphotoshopbrushes.com. To add them to the **brushes palette (Windows>Brushes)**: **Download** and **open** the zip file. Once the zip file opens, **double-click** on the .abr file and it will automatically add it to your brush menu. They show up when you scroll down to the bottom of your brushes palette.
9. For example, in the above image cloud **brushes were** used and bird brushes near the top of the image. Instead of dragging the brush to make a stroke, you just click on where you want the image and it stamps it there in a black and white image. Make sure each **brush** is on own **layer** so you can **adjust** their size, color or orientation as you work and even add a blending mode.
10. Create a balanced interesting composition that illustrates your creative idea in a dreamlike, surreal image. Then repeat the above steps to make a second image.