

MAKING GHOSTS WITH PHOTOSHOP



Objective: *To practice some new tools in Photoshop while making a creative ghost-like image.*

We start by walking around the school taking multiple photos of students coming towards us in the hallway, or multiple ghosts, or one person turning their head in three positions that will be composited together, faces with scary expressions and no bodies.

Remember that if you take a photo of just the background first and then add the people they can skip steps 5 and 6.



1. Choosing from the photos you took for this project, in Photoshop, open a photo with a background that is in focus. **Or if you took the background photo first before adding the people, open the background photo first and then open the other photos of people and copy and paste them into your file. This will allow you to skip steps 5 and 6.**



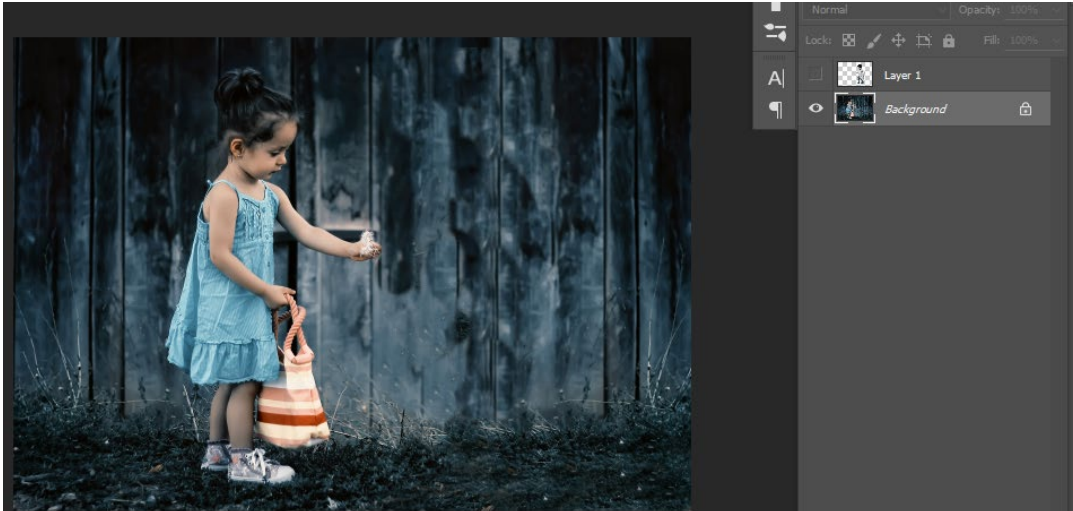
2. Use the **Quick mask tool** (the white rectangle with the black circle at the bottom of your tool bar) to paint a mask over the person you select to be the ghost. If you have multiple layers, make sure you have the correct layer selected before you start. An alternative method is to use the **Object Selection Tool** to select the person.



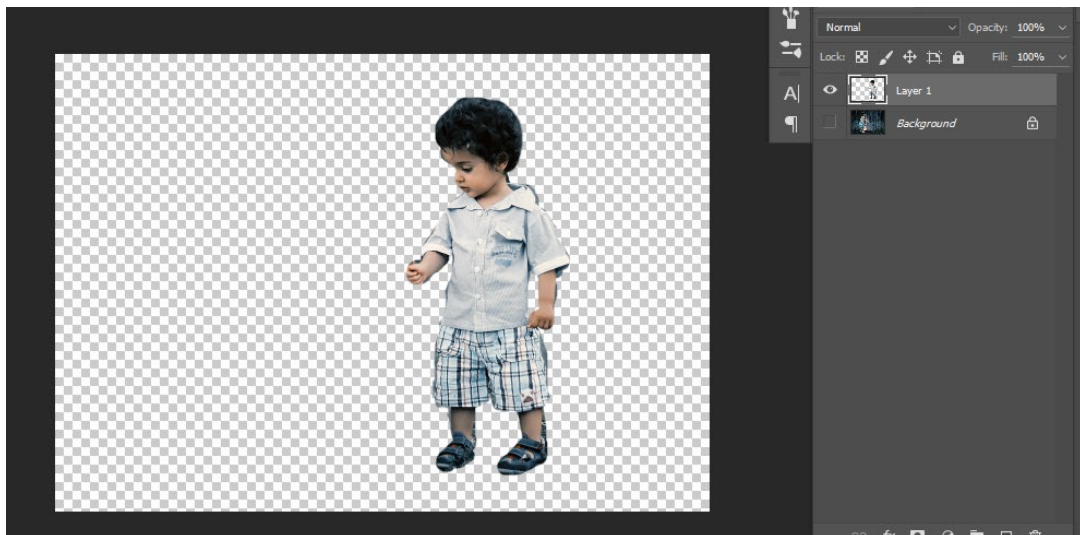
3. If using the **Quick Mask**, once you have clicked back on the mask tool to exit, then go to **Select>Inverse**. If you used the Object Selection Tool then skip the inverse step. Then **Edit>Cut Edit>Place** (or use the shortcuts) to place your person onto a new layer.



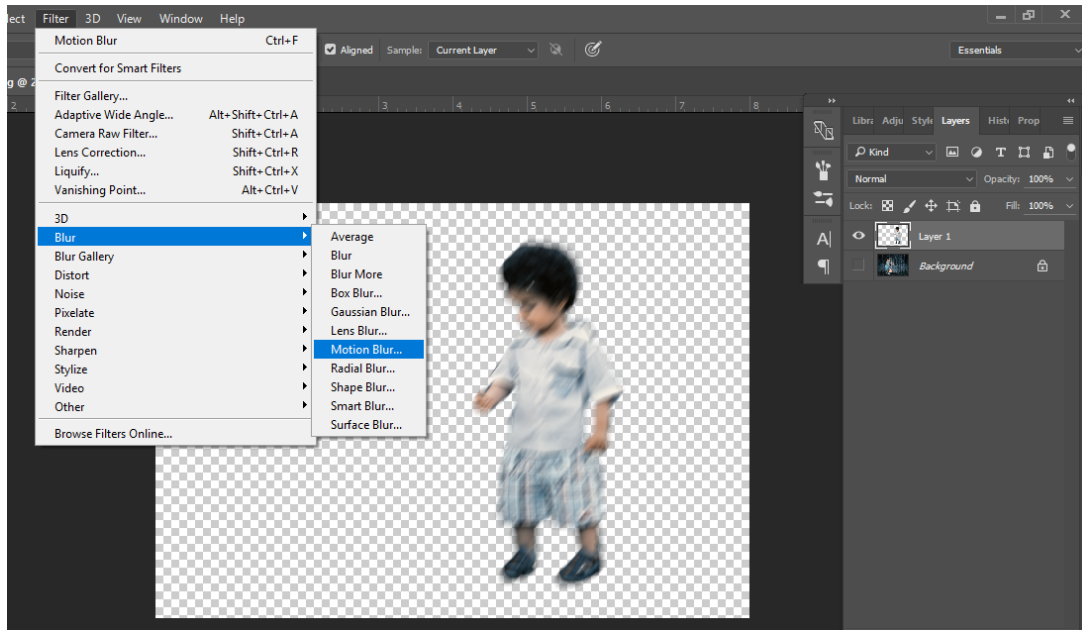
4. However, since I did not take a photo of my background without people first, notice when I turn off the invisibility of the top layer, I have a white shape. I need to use the clone tool to fill in the background. **If you took a photo of the background first without the person, and then a second photo with the person, and you have both in this file you can skip the next step.**



5. With the background layer selected, use the **clone tool** to fill in the blank area. You don't have to be perfect since the ghost will go back into the same space, but you will see some of the background showing through the ghost.



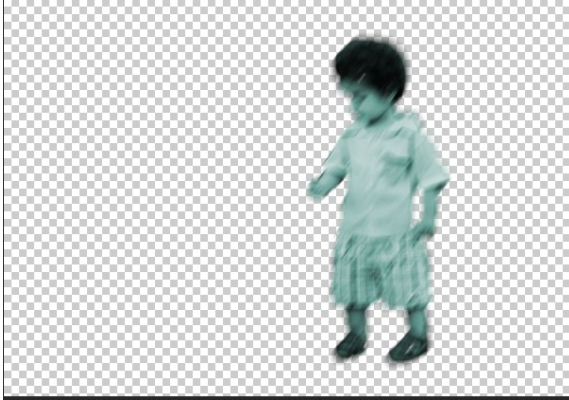
6. Turn the background layer **invisible** by clicking on the little eye.



7. Use the **Filter>Blur>Motion Blur** to blur your person enough to make them ghost like, but not so much that we can't make out what it is..



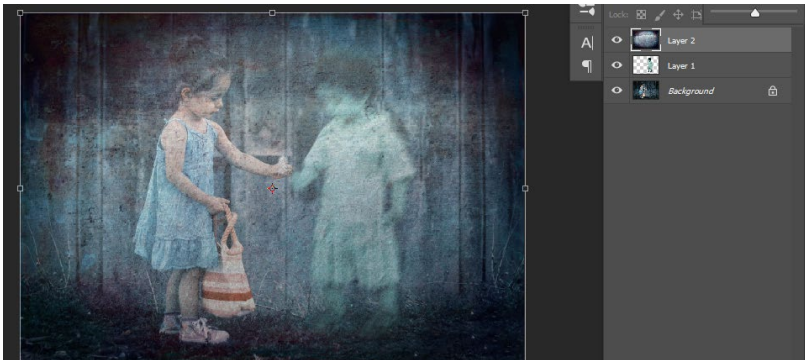
8. Use the **Hue Saturation Adjustment Layer** to lower the saturation and then colorize it.



9. I decided the green didn't fit, so I clicked on the **Hue/Saturation** layer a second time to give it a bluish tint. (Don't make a new Hue/Saturation layer.) Also, you want to lower the **opacity** of the layer just a little. **Right Click (or Ctrl-click) on the Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer** and **Merge Down** so that you don't adjust the background layer as well.



10. TaDa! A child playing with her ghost friend. I decided it wasn't creepy enough, so I decided to add a **texture layer**. So, I searched "texture layer" on Google and found one with texture and a vignette, downloaded it and opened it up in Photoshop.



11. I opened the texture layer and it showed up in its own tab, so I copy and pasted it onto my working ghost file and stretched it to fit. Notice it shows up on the top layer.



12. I decided it would be more effective to have the girl without the texture effect, so I erased where the texture overlapped her, making sure I had the texture layer selected.

13. These steps are just a sample of what you can do. Create a second creative ghost image. Below are some suggestions if you are stuck for ideas.

Other ideas:

- Multiple ghosts, one ghost in different positions, a head without a body and vice versa, floating ghosts.
- Darken the background to make it spookier (Levels Adjustment Layer or Hue/Saturation)
- Animal ghosts
- Ghosts looking in windows
- Shadows with no person
- Models in costumes (like a Renaissance Faire or bring your own costumes)
- Combining several photos of the same person slowly turning their head, or walking, or dancing, *etc*, for a ghostly action shot.