

A Snapshot of Moments Around the World

Dreaming of the Next Place to Explore...

-Lisa Huang-

“ ‘A Snapshot of Moments Around the World’ – Dreaming of the Next Place to Explore,” depicts exactly what the title explains. The image is like a camera shot of all the countries I visited over the years I attended MIT between 2002 and 2004. A collage of selected digital photos I took during my trips to China, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, United Kingdom, and France, together make up the shape of the countries. In the midst of the country images is a photo of me kneeling on a globe contemplating which countries I shall plan to visit next to fill up this map I am looking at from the background. The cloudy sky, which hovers across the map, gives a dreamy kind of feeling.

One of my most favorite interests is traveling. Whenever I can, I would like to visit a new major tourist attraction. The image somewhat creates that “puzzle” that I am trying to piece together, by filling in the empty spaces between the countries with more countries that I hope to explore down the years.

How the Image was Made...

The image constituted many layers of images. First, I created two shades of blue rectangular boxes on the white background. Then, I created a transparent layer of a sky photo over the blue shaded background.

-Countries-

As for the countries, I imported the clip gallery country images for China, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, the United Kingdom, and France. I then filled the country images with black paint and cropped out all the space outside the main country’s border line. One by one, I imported digital photos that I thought really depicted that specific country’s culture and major attractions and memories that I would not want to forget from my trip there. Each imported photo had its own layer so that all the thirty to fifty photos could be easily pieced together over the country image. After finishing the collage of images, I converted the photos to a grey scale color. Next, I put the country image in the foreground and cropped out and erased pieces of photos that extended outside the country’s borders. Finally, I merged the country image and the collage image together. This process was performed on each of the countries in separate layers. Once the country collage images were finished, they were positioned evenly across the canvas.

-Myself and Globe-

I cropped out a photo image of myself taken from Franklin Park and imported it as another layer. I then used the 3-D feature tool to create a sphere over my photo image and rotated the sphere such that it was positioned below my photo and made the image look like I was kneeling on a globe. I then played with the lighting effects such that the lighting was focused at a point which made my face and the central point of the globe brighter. The opacity level of the layer was set such that the clouds and Ecuador would still be apparent.

-Viewfinder-

To center the attention and to depict a camera shot, I drew, using the pencil feature, the exact viewfinder lines I saw on the digital camera I used to take all these photos. This was topped on as the foreground layer.

-Text-

To finish off the image, I added “2002-2004,” “A Snapshot of Moments Around the World,” “Dreaming of the Next Place to Explore,” and “Lisa Huang” as separate text boxes using different font, sizes, style, and text box shape.

The final poster image was successful. It is very close to what I envisioned it would look like, as I sketched out my plan before I started working on it. Just looking at the image brings back a lot of memories that I do not want to ever forget. The image tells some bit about my background through the many photos I incorporated and the overall image.