

Beach Wood Elves by Jessica Hector

For my final project I wanted to create an image that portrayed the playfulness of toddlers in an unrealistically scaled setting.

I began with an image of a piece of beachwood. The moment I saw the wood and took the picture I knew I wanted to use it for this image. The wood was full of creavices and nitches, perfect for little elf-like creatures to sit and stand on.

Next, I took many images of my 2-year old daughter and her friends. It is difficult to encourage toddlers to pose so all of the pictures I took occurred in their “natural environment”. I used the “magnetic lasso” function to cut out the toddlers from the pictures. I inserted them into the beachwood image and created some extra layers so that the children could really be nestled into the wood in some places.

The beachwood image needed a setting. I chose to insert the image into the archway to give the onlooker the feeling of “going in” or “looking into” a magical, fairy-tale world. I also chose to add the dafodil to help give the image more of a scale contrast. The flowers on the bottom were cut, copied and cloned around the beachwood to give it a base.

Finally, I inserted the background, which is also an image at a beach.

I burned some of the edges of the archway and the sky in the background image to level out the final image. I also used the paintbrush tool to draw some shadows for the toddler standing at the left top of the beach wood. The smear tool was used to help the shadows blend with the image.



