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Mixed Mediums



The idea behind this image was to combine hand drawing with photography. I decided to achieve this by creating a collage effect with the two media. I created a series of images superimposing a hand-drawn with a photograph of an picture. In order to compile these into a single image as a final project, I expanded on the idea of mounting layers on top of the other and placed the four images on a bulletin board created in Photoshop.

First, I selected following four images:



The first two are old photos of me that were scanned from prints into digital format. The latter two are digital images.

Next, I sketched each of these images into a sketchbook and digitally captured using a digital camera.



These images were then imported into Adobe Photoshop. The pencil drawings were cropped and adjusted for brightness, contrast, and color.

The adjusted images were then used as the base for the collage image.

The digital photographs were each added as a layer onto the background layer of the pencil drawing. The opacity of the photo layer was lowered so the two media could be lined up.

Using the polygonal lasso tool, I copied various parts of the photo image into new layers. Once I felt that there were sufficient photo layers, I hid the original photo layer to create the collage effect.

In order to make the image more convincing, I added a drop shadow to each of the cut layers. The shadow was global light from a 45 degree angle at 50% opacity. The size and spread of the shadow varied in accordance with the difference in size of each of the digital images.



Once these were completed, I thought a good way to create a composite image was to create a bulletin board effect.

First I created a push pin using the pen tool. The head and the shaft were drawn separately to make the shadowing more convincing. The head of the pin was a single large brush dot. This was then adjusted using the dodge and burn tools to create the lighting effect. Next, I applied a different drop shadow to each segment of the push pin (shaft and head) to make the pin appear to rise out of the paper.

The push pin layers were added to each of the composite drawing-photo images. These were then placed on corkboard background. The background was created by cropping the center corkboard space of the following image and mirroring it so it filled the background of the pictures.



Each of the push-pinned photo-drawing images were placed on the corkboard background at varying rotations. A drop shadow of global light at 45 degrees at 50% opacity was applied to the image layer. The size and spread varied again based on the size of the image.



To finish the effect, I created a bulletin board space to mount these images as a final composite.

I used the corkboard background to create a larger space for the images to be mounted upon. Then, I created a new frame layer by mirroring an image of wood around the frame. I then applied a bevel effect to this layer and applied a drop shadow again.



The pinned images were then layered on top of the bulletin board.

Finally, I completed the bulletin board effect by adding the push-pin components at random positions in the empty space of the corkboard.

Thus, two different media were combined into a cohesive image.