

SP.747- Final Project

Goal

When I began this project, my initial goal was to capture what I deemed to be the beauty of the city and its landscapes. I wanted to combine traditional photography with some of the skills that we learned in Photoshop. In particular, I was fascinated by two things: one was graffiti, and the other was the juxtaposition of negative images into otherwise picturesque scenes. For graffiti photos, I planned to photograph them in black and white, develop the film, and then import the images into Photoshop to add color and make the images stand out. For the juxtaposition photos, I also planned to use black and white photography, and take them into Photoshop with the goal of creating what would amount to postcards, but with a sarcastic twist. As the final project, I wanted to create series of these images. In the end, due to time constraints, these goals were hardly met, if at all.

Project

For my final project, I have chosen two digital pieces that I believe utilized all of the skills that I have learned in this class. My first image is a print that I developed when we were assigned to shoot a roll of film and pick five prints to make a series. This image is a scan of the print I made, which was less-than-stellar. In Photoshop, I was able to make it look much more sensational first by adding contrast, and then by using an Unsharp Mask. This really brought out a lot of the detail in the window frames. I then used the magic wand to select individual areas of paint and then filled them with color. A variety of filters were applied to get the final image that is seen.

The second image was an interesting journey. This picture was taken with my above-mentioned final project in mind--this was going to be one of the postcards. After scrapping that idea, I began playing around with coloring to see if I could turn the original black and white negative that I scanned into a somewhat realistic looking picture, complete with the colors that you normally see. I made three different layers out of three different components of the original image: skyline, sky, and river. The sky and river I shaded two different types of blue, and adjusted the opacity. There was a dead duck floating in the river in the foreground of my picture that I decided I no longer wanted, so I used the healing tool to cover up that portion of the river, which ended up looking pretty good. On the skyline, I added an Unsharp Mask to bring out the details of the buildings, which turned out to be an interesting effect. Also in the skyline portion, I used the paint brush to dab green on the trees (which were not green at the time). On the State House, I used a yellow paint brush to add color to that. With both those features I used a radial blur which had the effect of smearing the color. The last thing I did was an adjustment of the curves to increase contrast, and this was the final image.