Concept and Motivation:

Being from southern California, I often take for granted that there are indeed four seasons in a year. While in Boston, it is difficult to cope with the fact that for most of the year it would be quite unpleasant or aesthetically unappealing to go for a leisurely walk outside. The one thing southern California cannot compete with is the short and intense springtime bloom here in New England.

For my final project, I wanted to convey the feeling of spring and the dramatic change that occurs when it finally becomes tolerable outside. Boston Commons and the Public Gardens transition into this garden paradise packed with tourists and Bostonians alike, excited just to be walking around outside.

More specifically, I wanted to convey the link between the spring and the general sense of happiness during the bloom. On the weekend, I went out to the Public Gardens and took about 250 digital images of all the tulips and other flowers in bloom, as well as the people all about the park. After reviewing the pictures, the photos of the people and of the flowers seemed to be very distinct; however, when wandering around the garden, both the flowers and the people integrated to set the mood for the scene. In my project, I wanted to recombine these separate images to elicit something similar to my feeling of walking through the gardens surrounded by a thousand flowers in bloom with people just happy to be outside.

Methods:

I started with a single photo of flowers and wanted to overlay various images of people on the individual flowers.
I then selected the images that I wished to overlay with the flowers and added each one as an individual layer. One by one, I resized them to properly fit the flower and positioned them appropriately.

I then played around with the blending modes to obtain a balance between the image of people in the foreground with the flower in the background. I finally settled on the “Hard Light” blending option.

The next step was to create a layer mask for each image such that only the shape of the showed. I used the magnetic lasso to isolate the flower and then created a layer mask from that selection for each flower. These last few steps were repeated many times in order to obtain the proper balance of flowers with and without pictures on them.
After all the photos were place, I added the text to the image. Each word was added separately so that I could control the warping of each word to get the shape seen below. Also, to make the words stand out more from the background, I added a drop shadow on each of the words.

**Other Considerations:**

As mentioned above, one item that I deliberated over was how many and which flowers were to have pictures on them. The first version of this concept had a couple more photos than this one has now, except with so many photos, the flowers became insignificant, since the viewer could not see any full unaltered flowers. Another consideration was the type of flower to use for the background. After reviewing the 150 or so photos of flowers, I decided to go with a mainly white flower so the color of the flower would not overpower the overlaid images. Prior to this background image, I used
an image that had pure white tulips; however, there the flowers did not have enough personality that still could come through the overlaid images. I finally settled on this photo in which the flower is mainly white, yet has pink accents that could assert a nice effect on the overlaid images.