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SP.747- Final Project

I had originally planned to do a picture that symbolized my four years at MIT, but after an unfortunate circumstance with the close button (without saving), I decided to change plans. What I decided to work with instead, is a portrait of my cousin taken in Boston Commons. After thinking about “endings” for a while, I had started to think about “beginnings” and it seemed natural to chose a picture of such youth and innocence.

I had taken the picture on a digital camera, using a black and white filter. The picture was originally quite low in contrast (mostly grays without many true blacks or whites). The emphasis of the picture was always the baby, but the background had actually been in focus.

The first thing I did with the picture was to create a mask over the baby. To the remaining picture, I applied a radian blur to create the illusion of movement. Once that was done, I wanted to adjust the tones, and began looking at the different levels and curves. I had chosen a set that worked well for the picture, but then realized the possible effects of creating a gradient. I used a foreground to background gradient, changing the dark color stop to a dark blue. At first, the picture came out too dark, and I was having trouble fixing the contrast with curves. As a second attempt, I went back to the pre-gradient picture, and altered the color midpoint until I was happy with the contrast.

The resulting picture is of time passing as one tries to stand still. As much as he tries, however, he can't resist, as is shown by the slight blurriness of the baby's face. Whether we like it or not, we have to move forward.