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HOW TO USE PHOTOSHOP WARP TOOLS TO CREATE ABSTRACTS

by Ruth Formanek

A. THE WARP TOOL

1. Choose a relatively high-resolution (300 dpi or more) image, not too contrasty, but with texture. Examples: textured cloth, window shades, wraps used around construction sites.

2. Save image to desktop and make a duplicate. Layers>Flatten.

3. Open one image in Photoshop and create space around it: Image>Canvas Size. The Dialog Box asks for dimensions. Multiply pixels of either width or height by 3 to 6 times, and choose background (white or black, or whatever you like).

4. You should now see your image with space around it. Move sliders on side and bottom in order to center the image. Flatten. Save.

5A.   (You may also go to Layers>Duplicate, Control-Command, Edit>Transform>Warp. You don't need to import your
   duplicate then.) OR,

5B. Import your duplicate image from the Desktop. You will see some points around the image that indicate you can make changes. If you don't see points, go to Edit>Free Transform, and increase or decrease the size and/or position of your imported image.

6. Now you can WARP it: Edit>Transform>Warp. You will see more points around your image. You can pull the points outwards or inwards, around a circle, etc. Play with this feature until you get a sense of what your actions will result in. You can also pull parts of your image without paying attention to points. Once you like a transformation, you can make it permanent by going to File>Close. A Dialog Box will ask whether you want to 'Place' your image. Click Place. Or click 'Don't Place' and start all over again. Or click 'Save.' Flatten it. You can now treat your warped image like any other image and apply all desired commands to it.

7. 'Cancel' instead of 'Save.' You can now repeat the process as in 5 and 6 above, that is, you can import another duplicate and warp it and combine it with your new image. You can repeat that step as often as you like. Make sure you Flatten the image, however, or you'll have too big a file.

Note: If Photoshop doesn't follow your instructions, go to File>Close>Don't Crop, or go to Layers>Flatten, then return to your instructions.

B. THE PUPPET WARP TOOL

B1. Save your image. Go to Layers>Duplicate Layers>Background Layer. Then Edit>Puppet Warp.

B2. Mesh will appear. Click the corners of your image to anchor it on the page. Click points where you want to move portions of the image. Play with it to get a sense of how the Puppet Warp works. Once you like what you've done, proceed as above, i.e. File>Close>Apply, then either save or cancel. Always Flatten.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

My email is ruth23form@rcn.com