



Creative ideas to enhance ordinary photos

Ed Marion

NVPS

Oct 28 2025





Personal Perspectives
Custom Borders
“Anything” Orbs
Composites
Abstracts

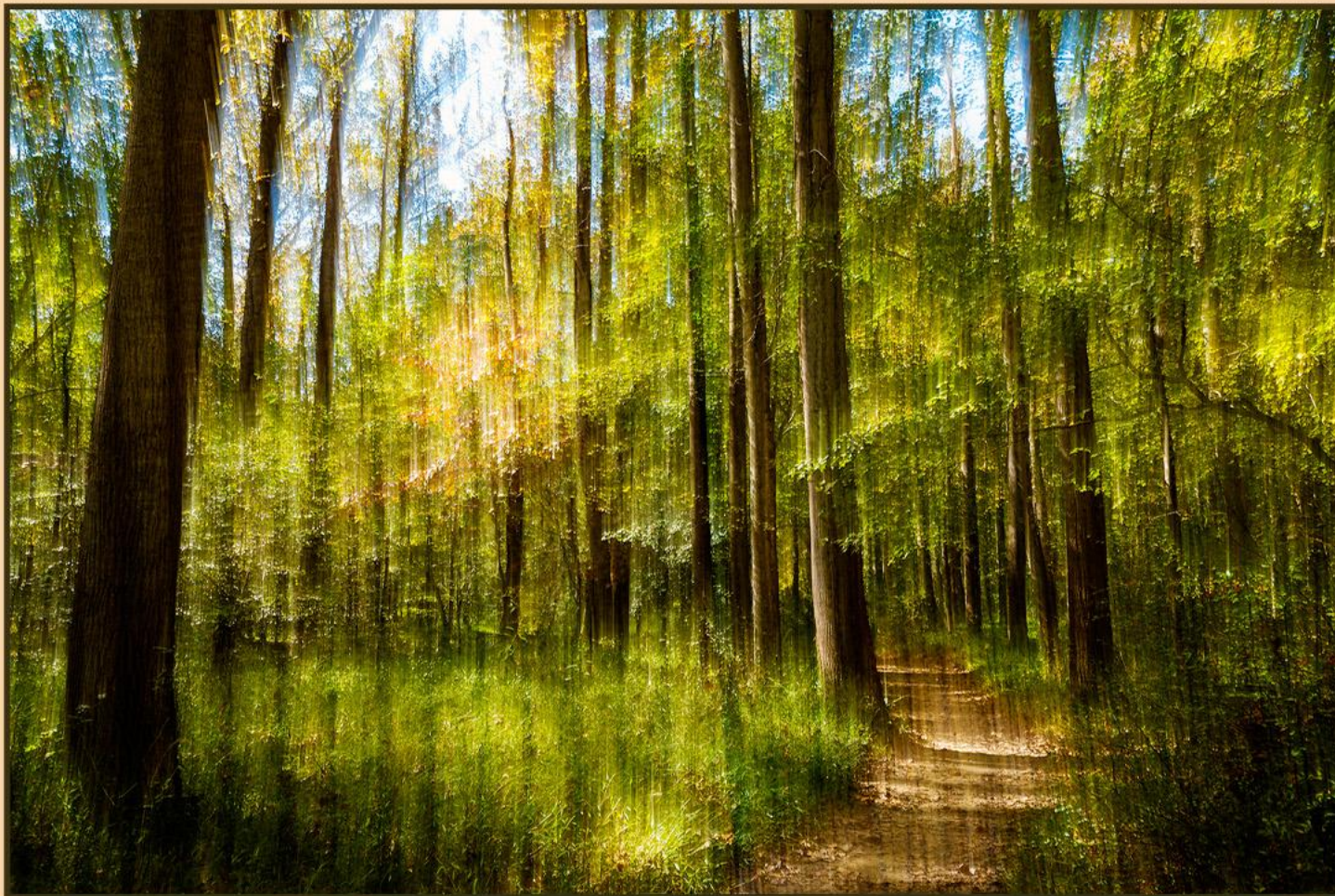
Vertical Pan



1/5 th sec

f 11

ISO 100



Horizontal Pan

Pan speed = subject's speed

Focus : keep eye(s) sharp

1/50 th sec

ISO 64

f 5.6



W&OD Trail



Pixel
Stretch....

Rectangle
Marquee Tool

Ctrl + J
copy selection
to new layer

Ctrl + T
free transform
& stretch

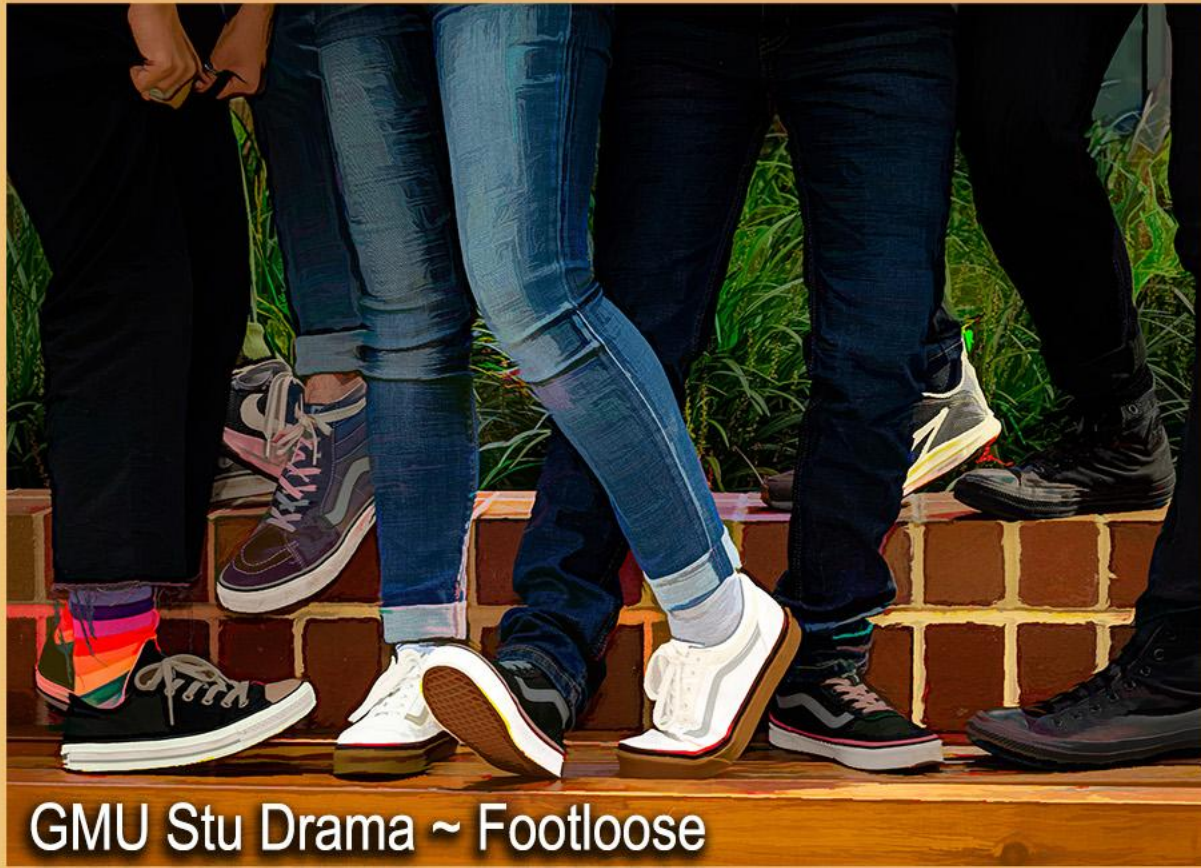
Path Blur
(Background)

Interact!



1/1000 sec
f 3.9
ISO 1000
42 mm

From a Lower Perspective



GMU Stu Drama ~ Footloose



July 4th Parade



24 mm f8 1/640 ISO 400

Look Down



Look Behind

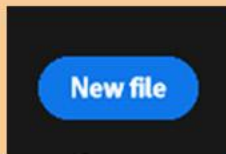
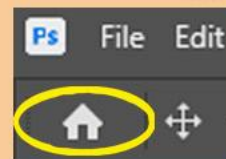


Kennilworth Aquatic Gardens





“PANELS”



x Size White

View > **Guides** > New Layout

check “SNAP”

Rectangle Marquee Tool

CTRL + J Copy / New Layer

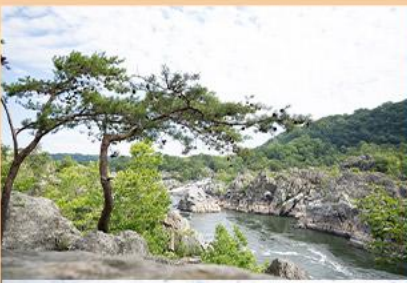




Convey a Story !

Why I Bracket Exposures ~ HDR

+ 2/3



+ 1/3



0 ev



- 1/3



- 2/3







*Asymmetry
&
Negative
Space*

Highlight ~ Off Center subject ?

Vignette ?

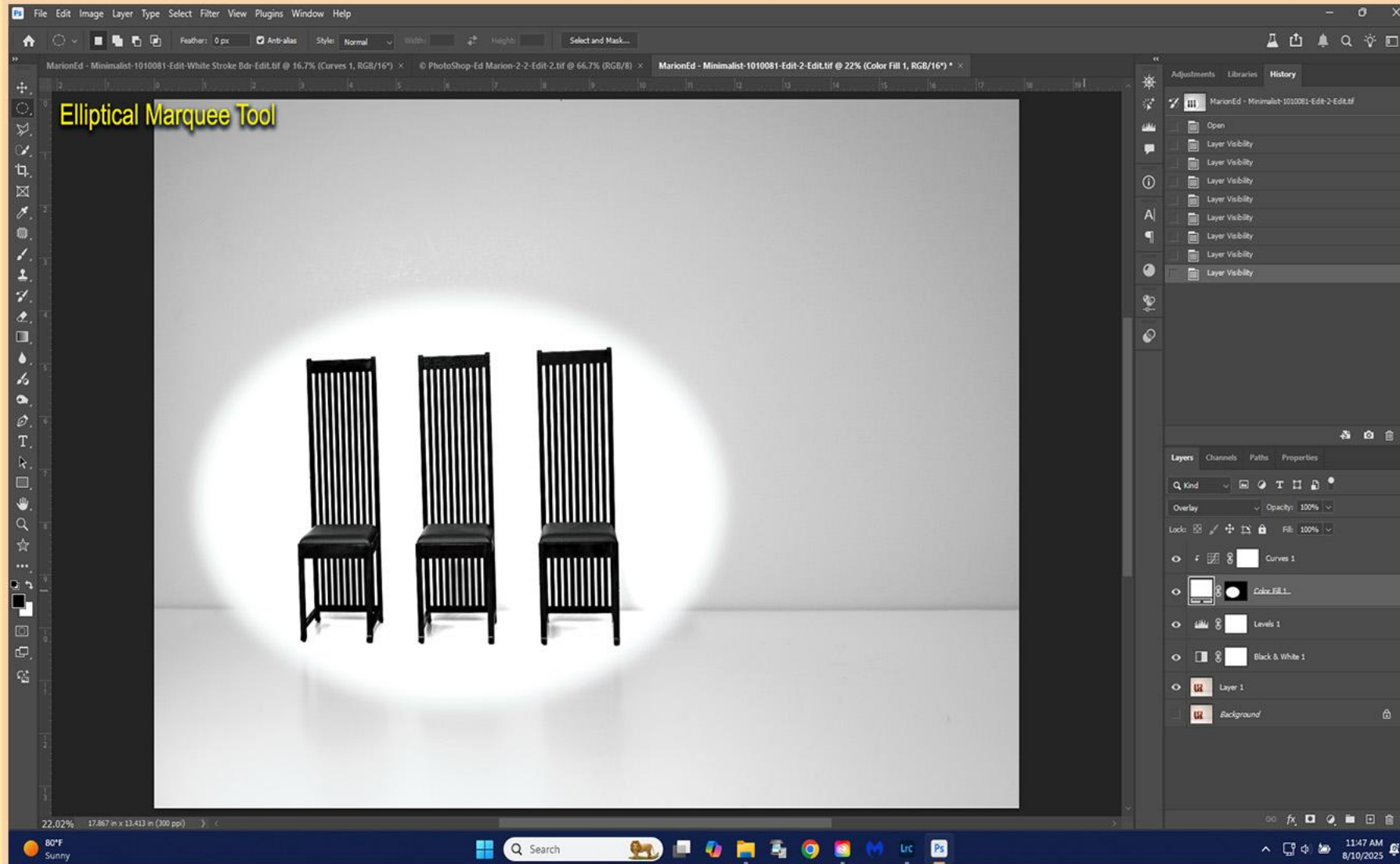
LR / ACR

Radial Gradient ?

PS CC

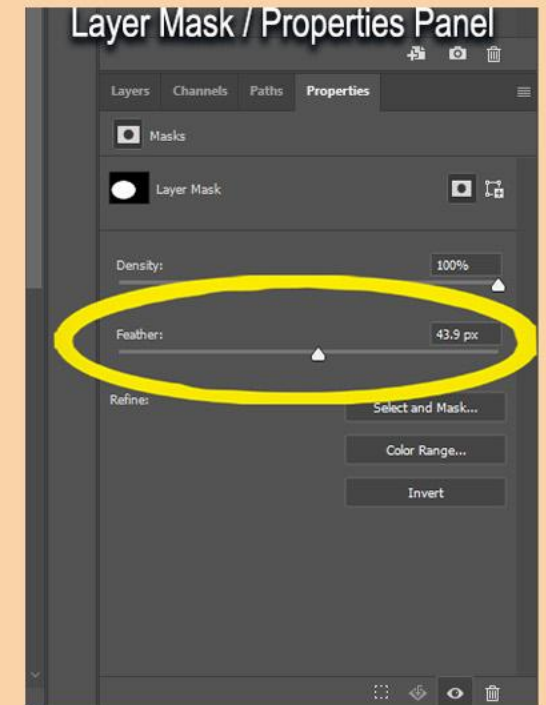
Elliptical Marquee !!

PS CC



Elliptical Marquee Tool

- 1 Elliptical Marquee Tool
- 2 Select > Transform Selection
- 3  Add Layer Mask
- 4 Brightness ++
- 5 Mask > Properties > Feather



Backdrop
overflow



Portraits / Awards / Corporate Sponsors





Custom Borders

Custom Borders



Stroke Border

Enlarge Canvas
+
New Fill Layer

Drop Shadow

Stroke Border = Separator



- unlock background layer
- “Fx” 
- choose “Stroke Border”
- click color swatch &  sample yellow
- adjust size & opacity
- OK

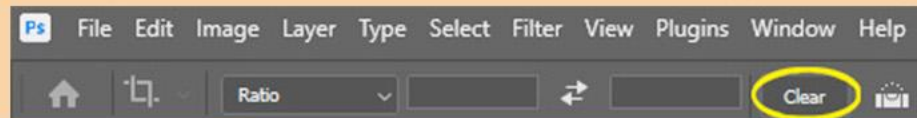
Continued on next slide

Enlarge Canvas + New Fill Layer



- unlock background layer

-  crop tool > “clear” ratio (w x h)



- hold ALT & drag corner handles

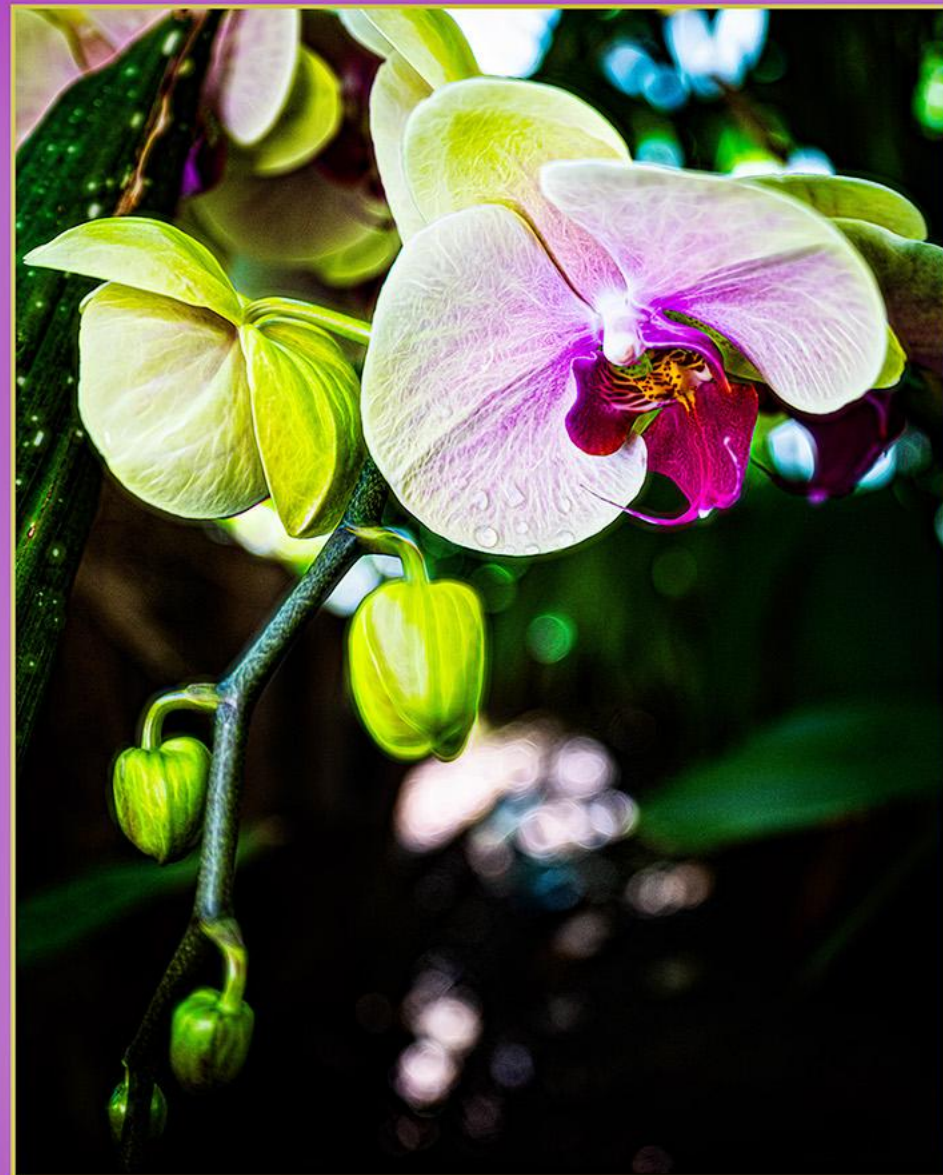
- layer > new > new fill layer > OK

- drag fill layer underneath

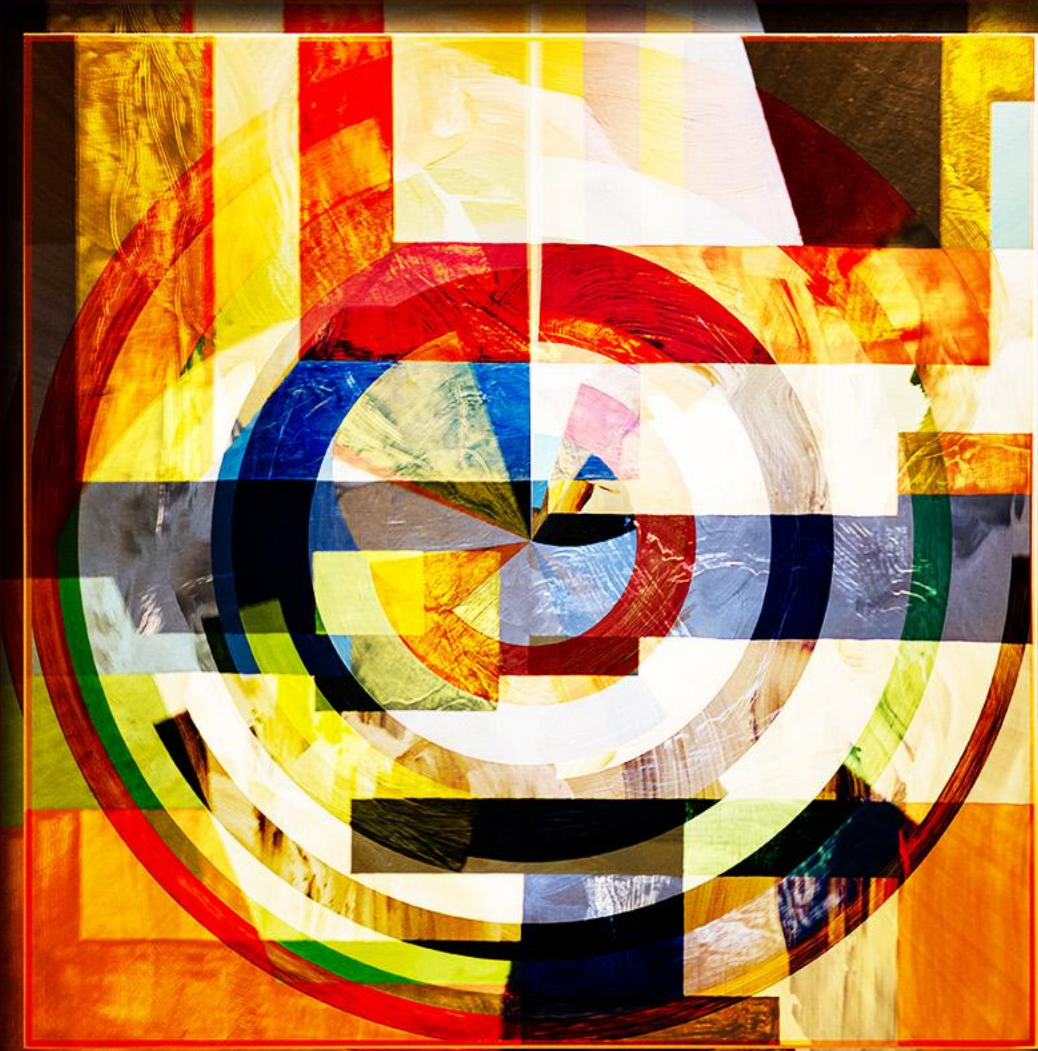
- click x 2 : fill layer & color swatch >
move cursor over document >

-  sample a color > OK

- photo image layer : “fx” > “drop shadow”







I'm not an orb

[Triple Matte]

Orbs are fun!

Orb within an Orb

Fx > Bevel

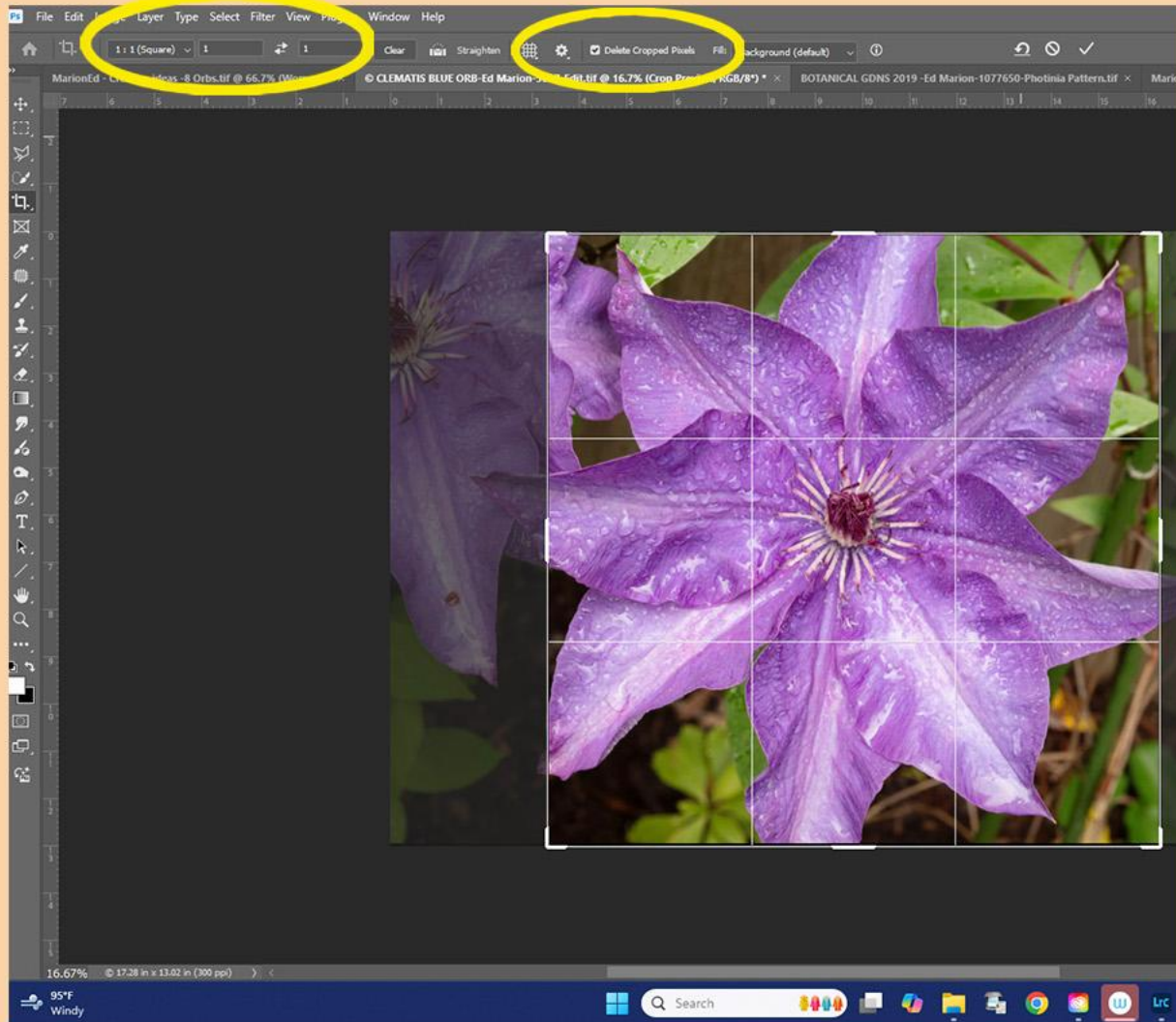




Stairs + Bannisters



Round ORBS



Crop 1 x 1 Square

Check delete cropped px

Continued on next slide ...

Filter > Distort > Polar Coordinates >
Polar to Rectangular > OK

Image > Image Rotation > **180 degrees** > OK

Filter > Distort > Polar Coordinates >
Rectangular to Polar > OK

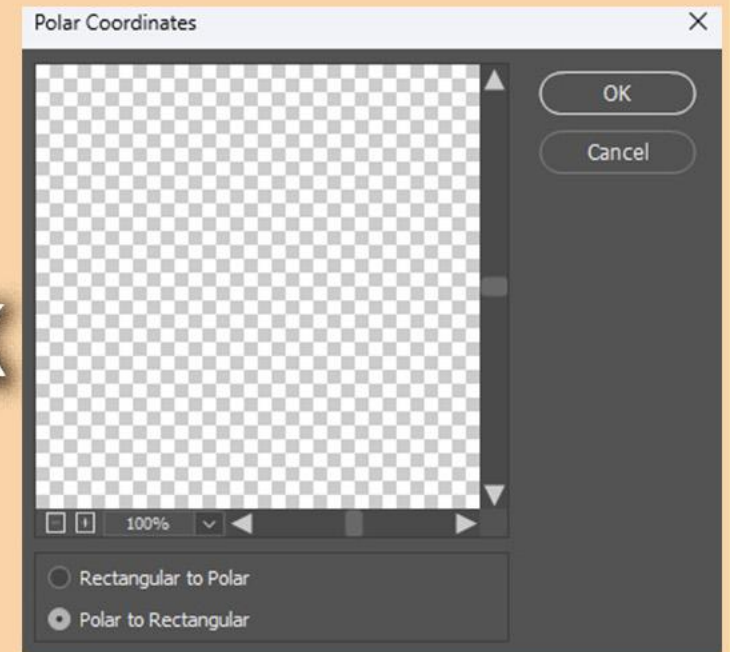
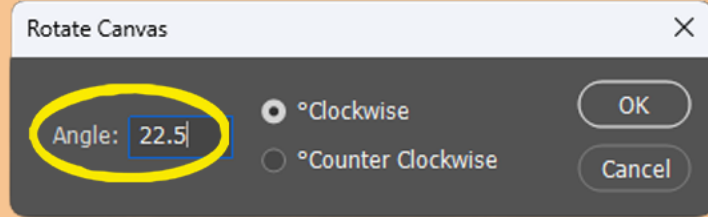


Image > Rotation > Arbitrary



angle = 22.5





*Close Up
Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin*

rotate
45 degrees



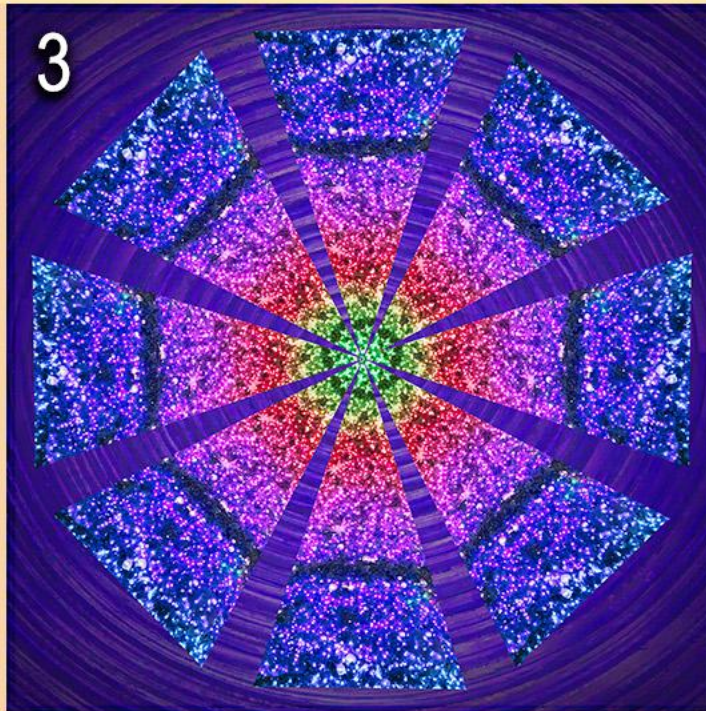


“ Blue Man ”

1



3

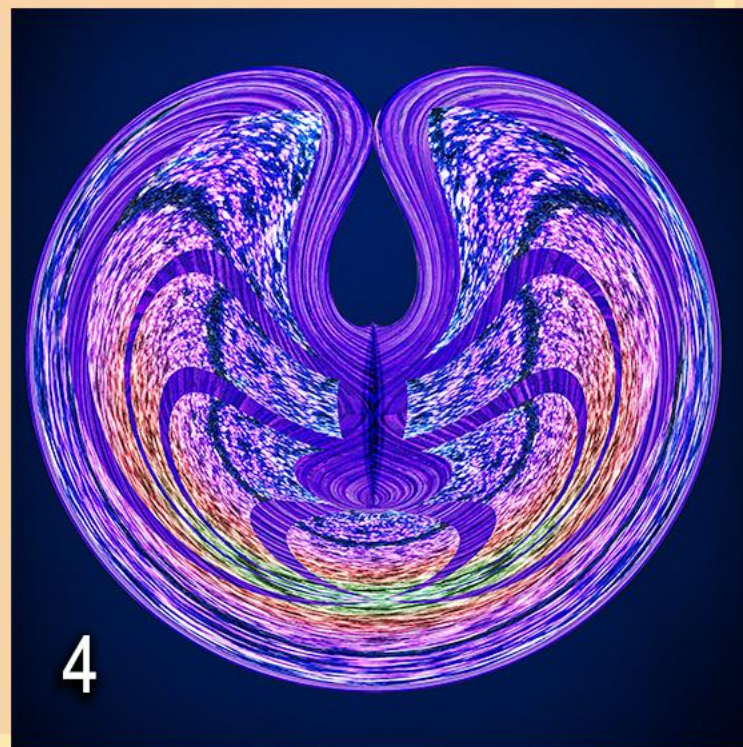


*Variations
on a Theme*

2

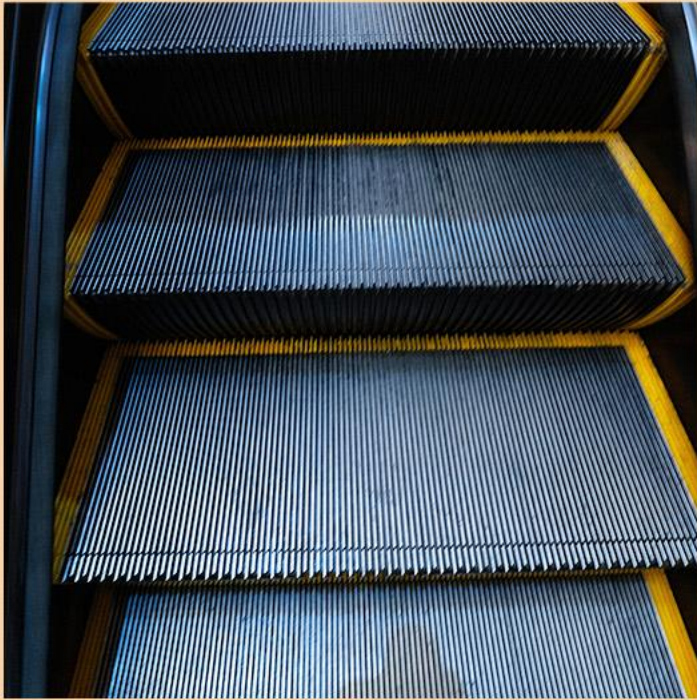


4





“La Roulette”





Ctrl + J

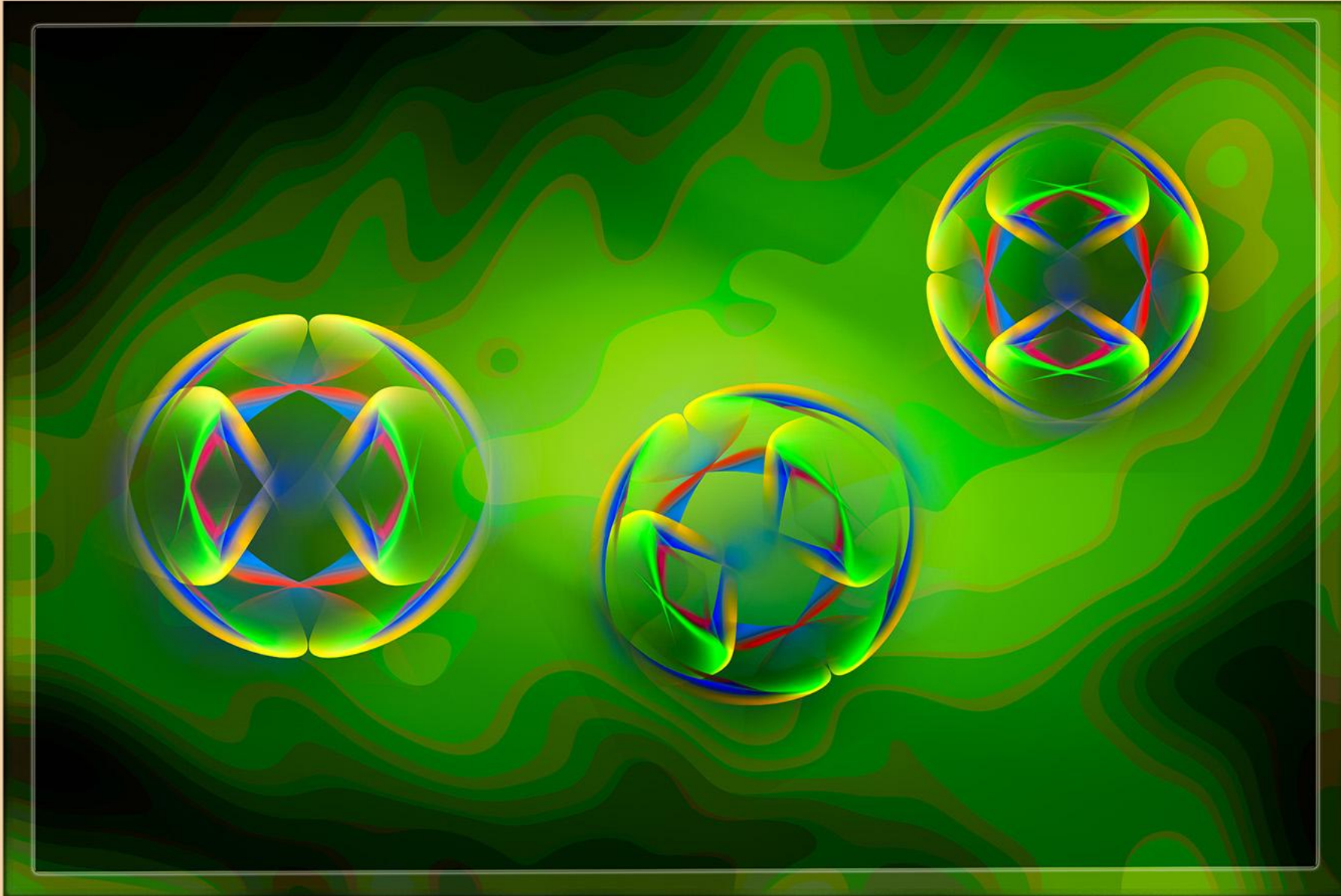
Blend : Linear Dodge

Ctrl + T ~ 90 degrees

Crop 1:1 ratio

Filter > Distort > Polar ...





“Adrift”

My Favorite
Shortcuts

Ctrl + J

Ctrl + T

Fx

Copy Selection ~ New Layer



- 1) Select Subject
- 2) **Ctrl + J** copy selection / new layer
- 3) Right click > make Smart Object
- 4) drag & drop to new composite



Side by Side ~ Custom Background





“ Video is a recording of 30 still jpg images / second
wrapped into a single mp4 file ”

Mark Toal ~ *Video for Still Photographers*

video default = 1/125th sec



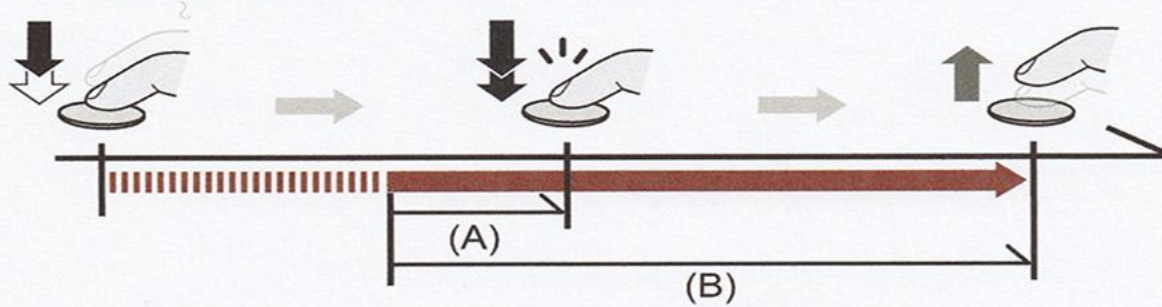
Lightroom



NVSO Senior Olympics



In [SH Burst Pre-Recording Time] you can set the length of time recordings are made before the shutter is pressed fully.



Panasonic Lumix G9II



*Which
is better ?*

*Electronic
Shutter
AFC*

*20 - 60 frames / sec
(LCD constant)*

*Mechanical
Shutter
AFC*

*10 frames /sec
(LCD "Blinks")*

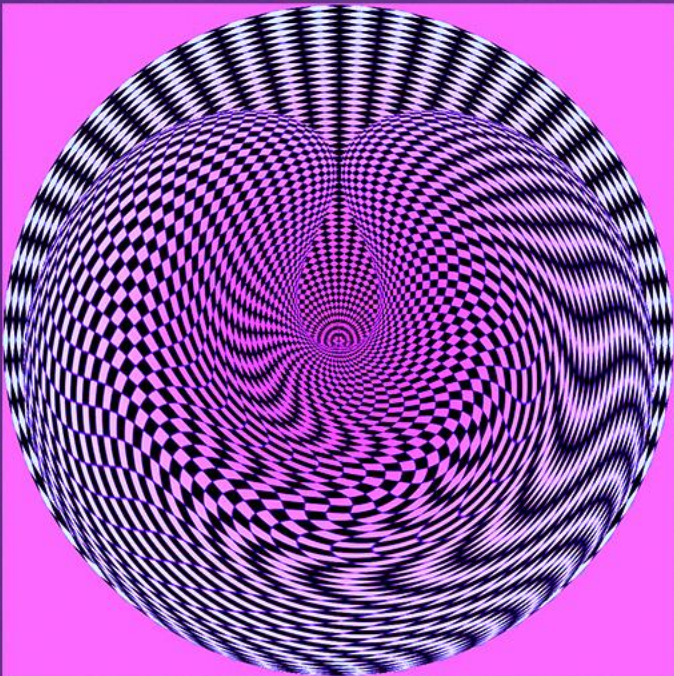
“Burst” with Electronic Shutter raw (or jpg)

SH20 PRE AFC 20 frames / sec
1/640th sec
w/o mech shutter rapid blink !



Composites & Abstracts

Commonalities - Connections



Incremental Improvisation

Discovery !

“Ahh - HA Moment”



*“sudden connection between two
seemingly unrelated concepts”*

Allysia Finley WSJ 06/23/2025



Multi Layer Composites

~~Generative AI~~





Difference

“Acrobats”

Early Composite
2017



Overlay





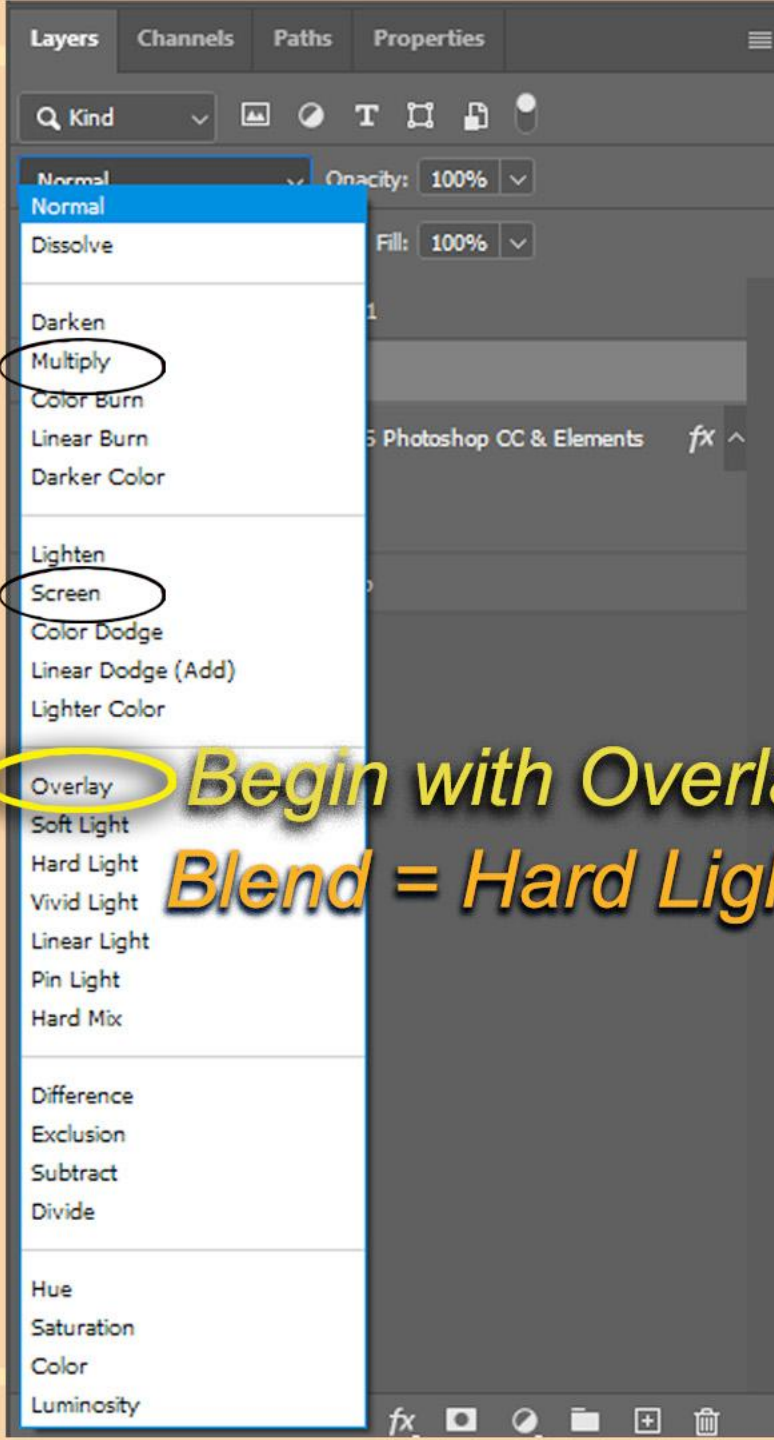
*Filter ...
Distort & Twirl & Spherize &
Fragment & Radial Blur*

*Ctrl + J
Blend ~ Difference*

Image > Rotate 45 degrees



Kinetic Transitions ~ 2019





“Grand Organ” Wash Nat’l Cathedral

Prelude No II
Edited by Russell E. Lanning A fine study in weight legato playing in which great opportunity for dynamic contrast is afforded. J.S. BACH
 Allegro non troppo
mf *cresc.*
 EL2543

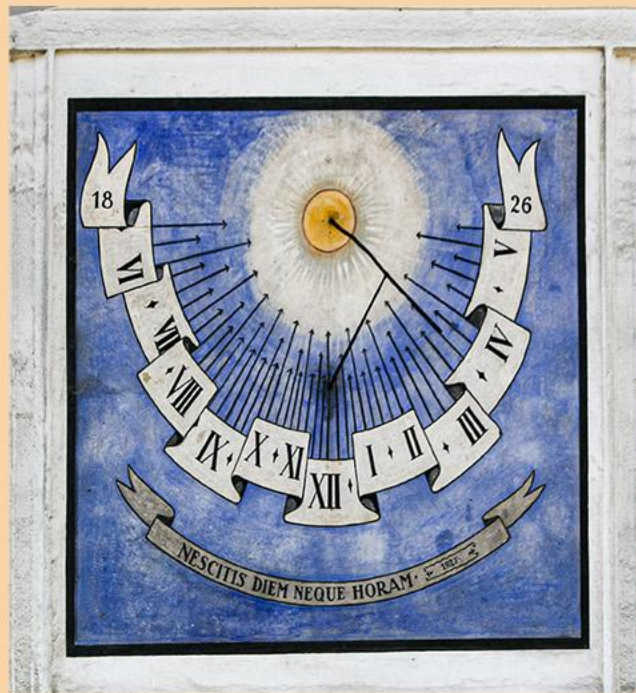
A musical score for a piano piece titled 'Prelude No II' by J.S. Bach. The score is written for piano and includes a bass staff. It features various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf' and 'cresc.'. The tempo is marked 'Allegro non troppo'. The score is edited by Russell E. Lanning and is identified by the number EL2543.

Soft Light

Prelude No I
Edited by Russell E. Lanning A fine study in weight legato playing in which great opportunity for dynamic contrast is afforded. J.S. BACH
 Allegro non troppo
mf *cresc.*
 EL2543

A musical score for a piano piece titled 'Prelude No I' by J.S. Bach. The score is written for piano and includes a bass staff. It features various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf' and 'cresc.'. The tempo is marked 'Allegro non troppo'. The score is edited by Russell E. Lanning and is identified by the number EL2543.

*“You Don't Know the Day
or the Hour”*



St Nicholas Church
Ljubljana, Slovenia
1826

Hard Light



OLDE WESTERN ANTIQUE



Overlay



Double Exposure Effect



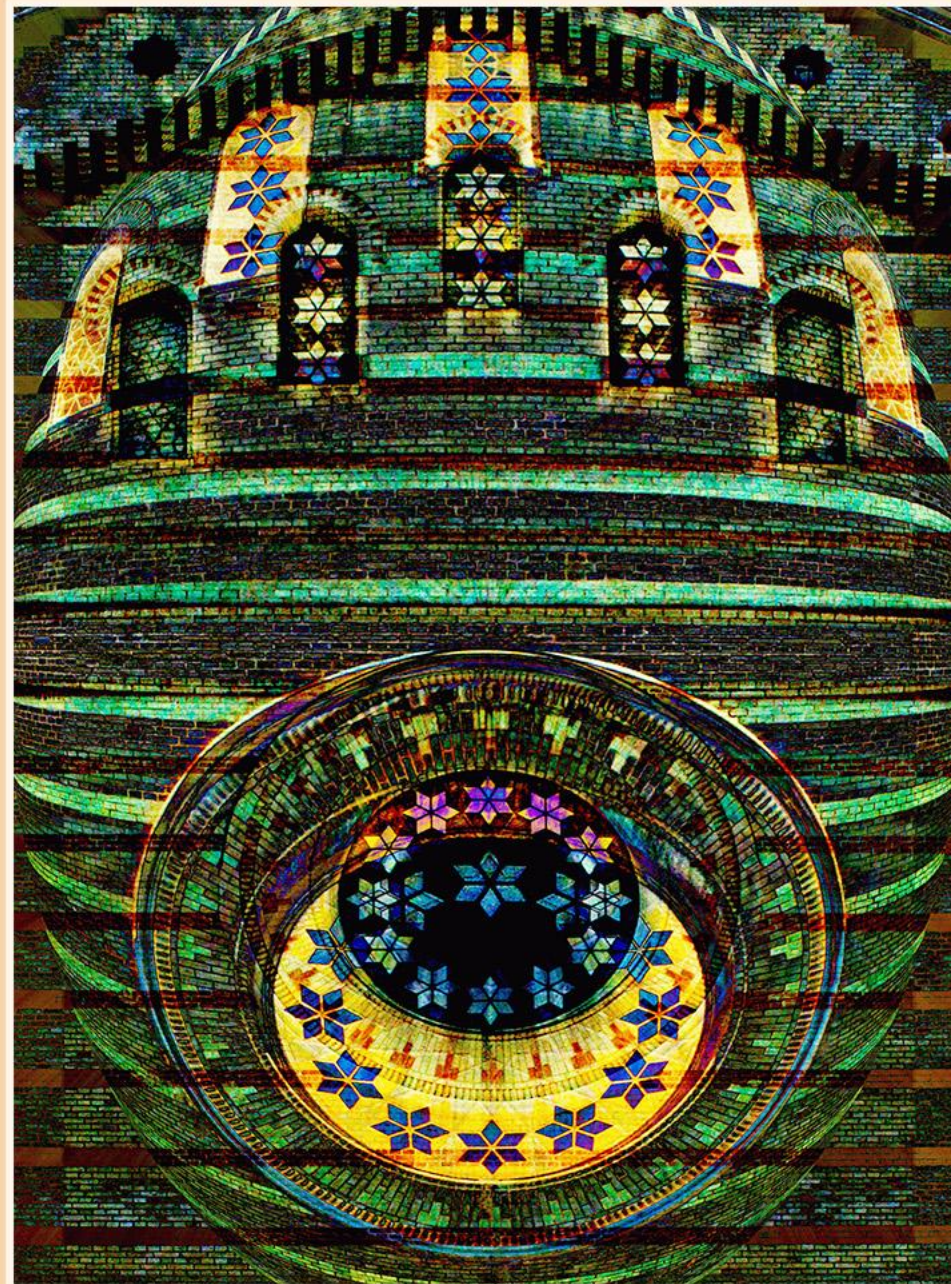
CTRL + J

Blend ~ Hard Mix

Filter >
Distort >
Spherize

Ctrl + T

Hue / Sat



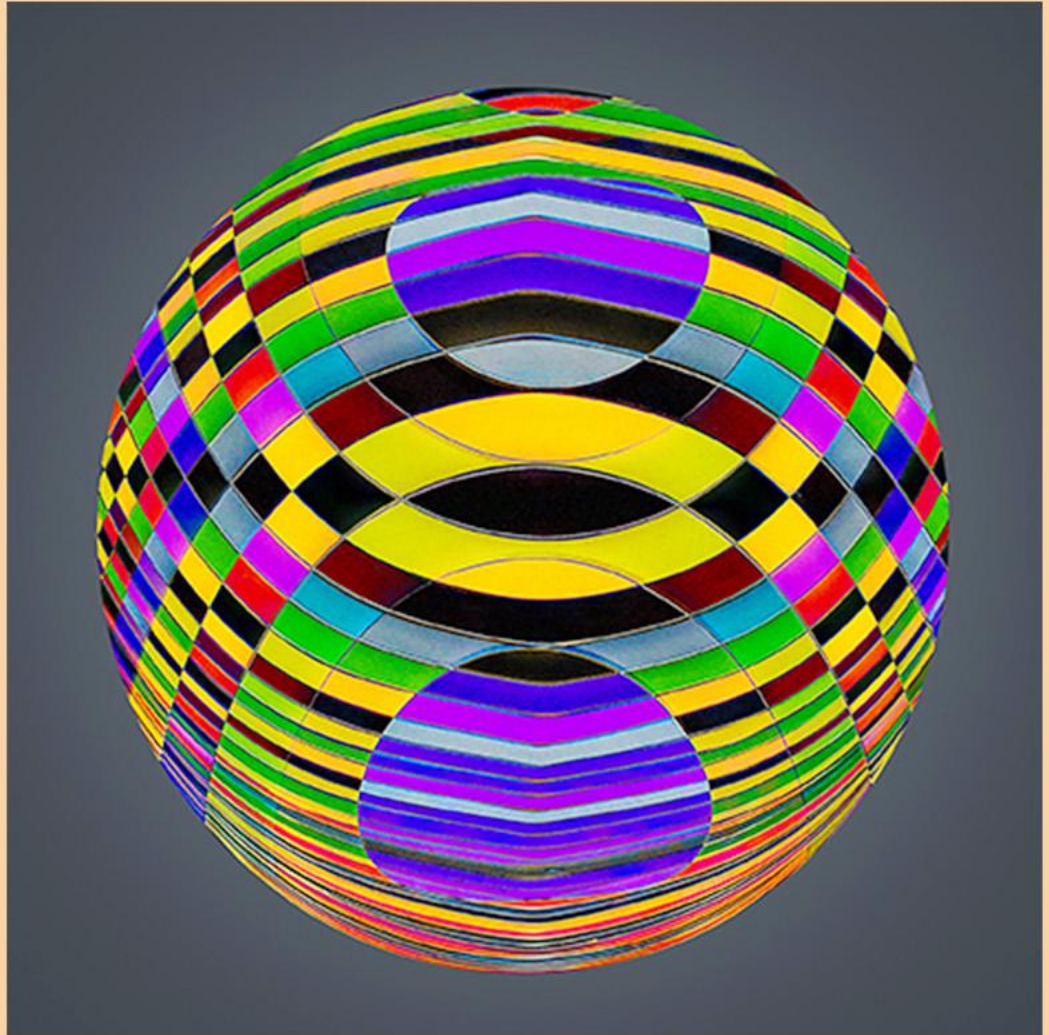


Abstract

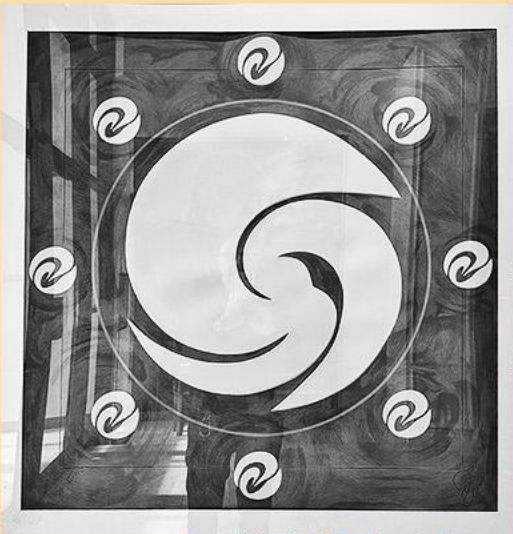
vs

“Digital Art”

FOUND ABSTRACT



Transform Ordinary > Unique



FOUND SHAPE

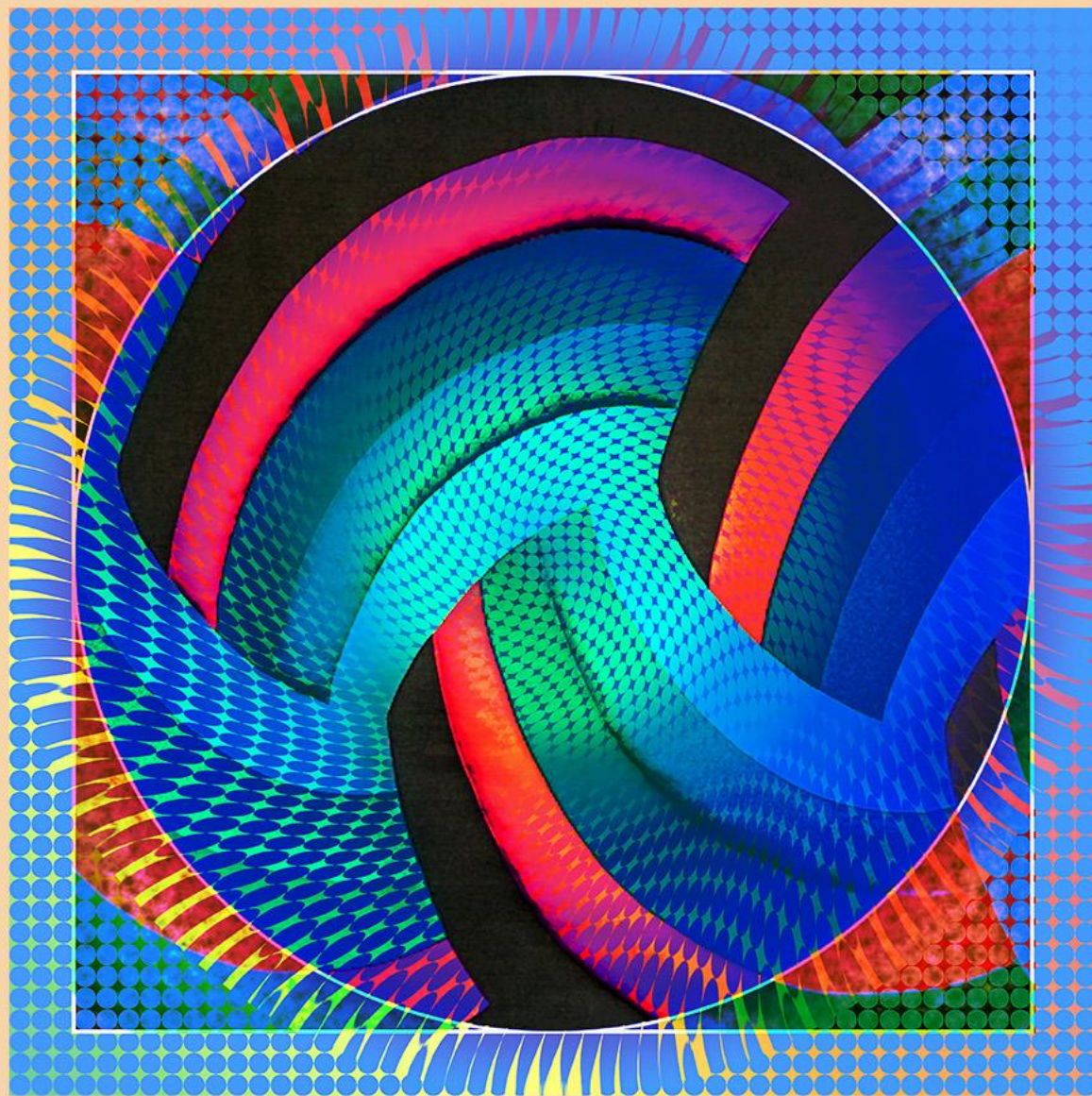


SEA SHELLS



VINYL WALLPAPER



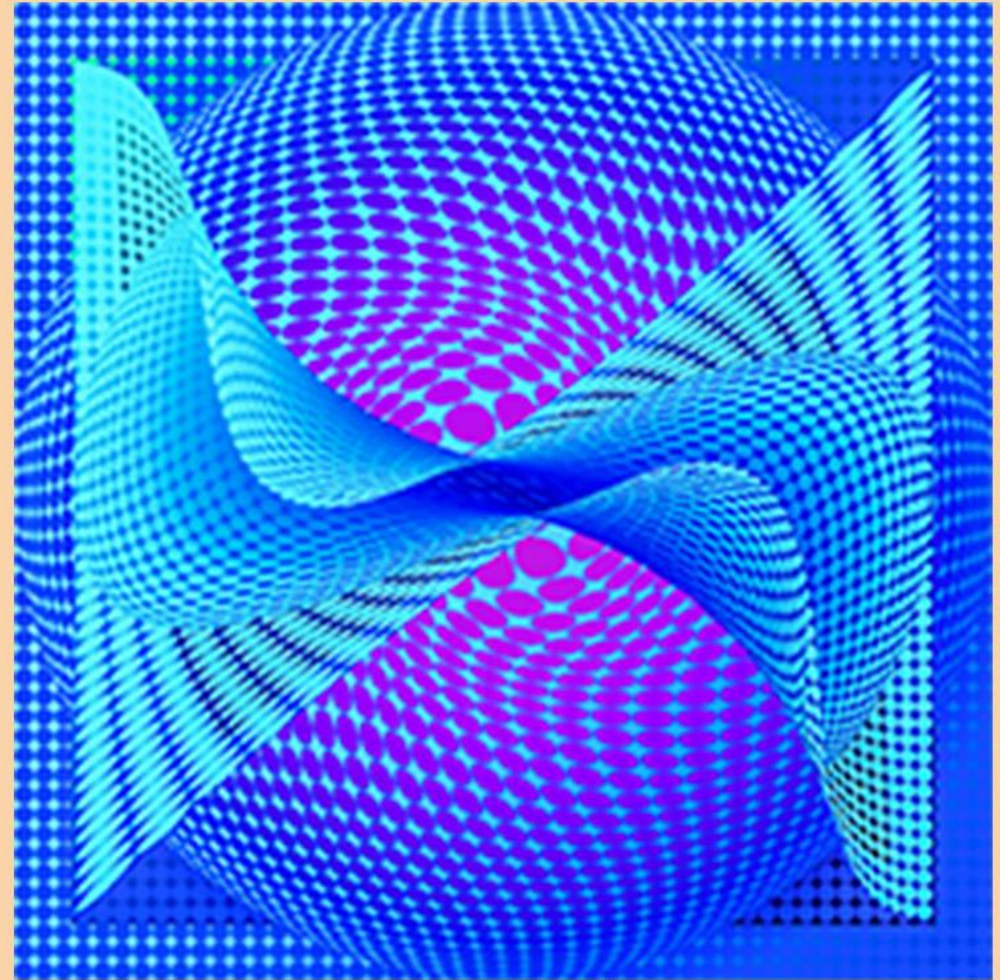
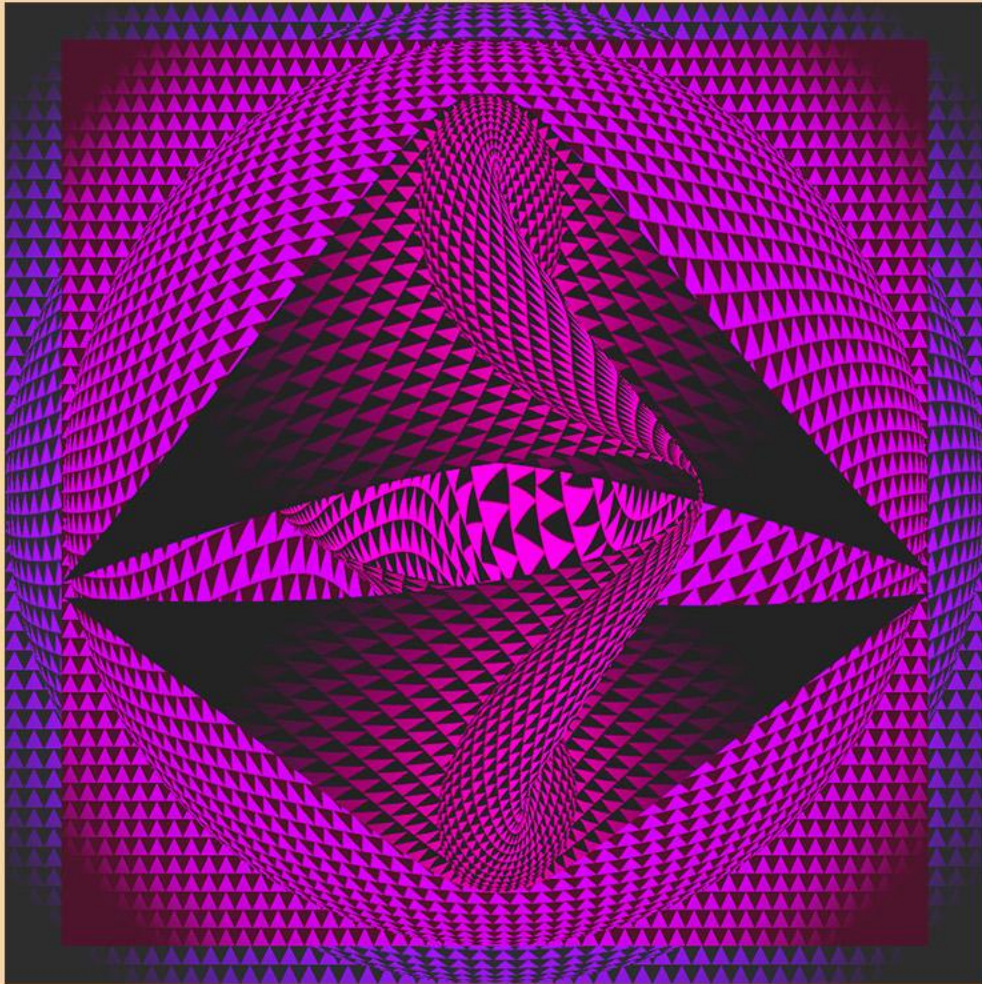


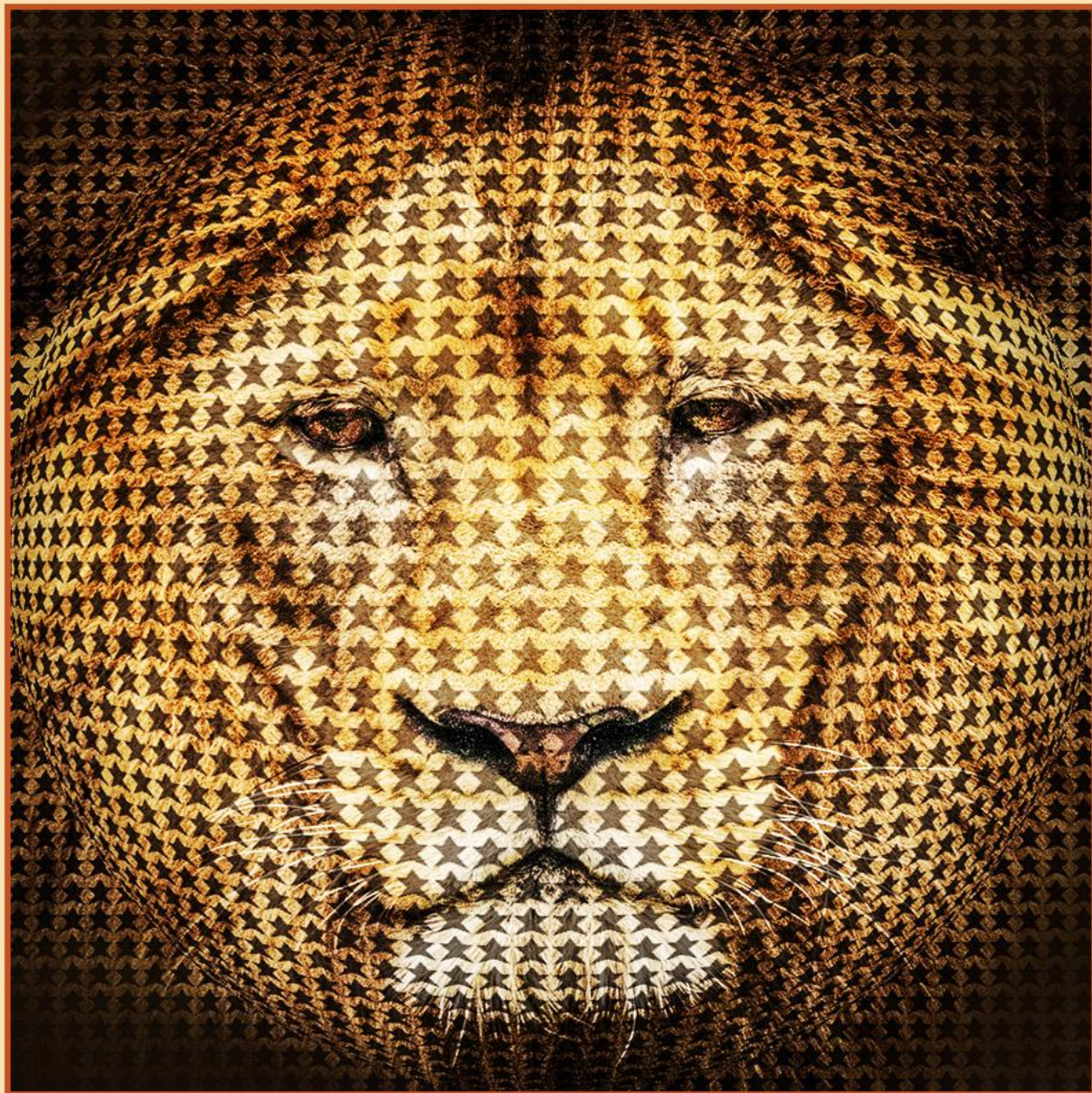
*Shape ...
Pattern ...
Layers*

Victor Vasarely Style

“Op Art”

“Photoshop Tutorial: Op Art! How to Make a Victor Vasarely Painting” ~ Blue Lightning TV





*Blend a photo
with a
Saved Pattern*

“ STAR LION ”

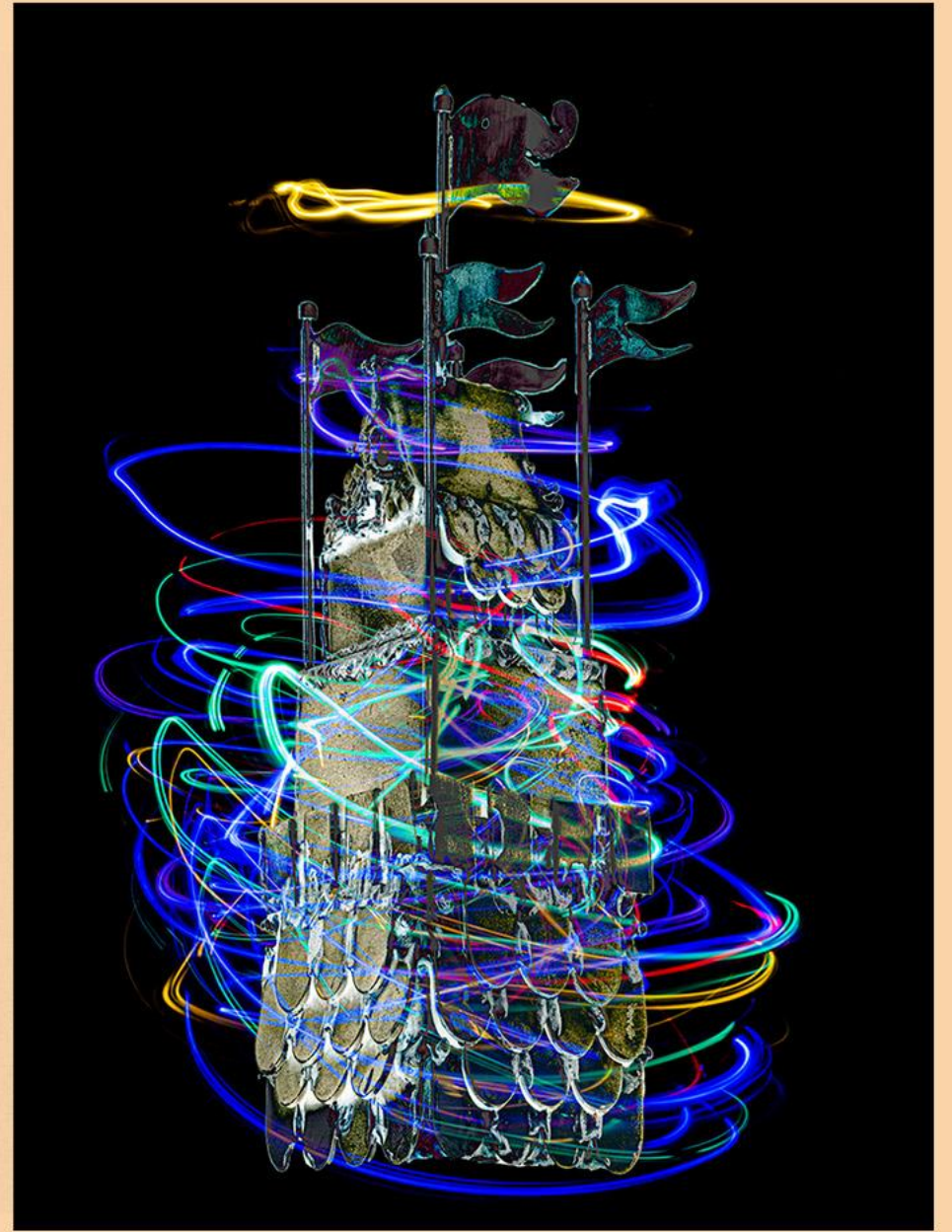
Quick Repeating Patterns

Photoshop CC Beta



Filter > Parametric Filter > Pattern > 10 x 10

"Fairy Castle"



Copy > Transform & Repeat



Select Object (W)

Ctrl + T (transform #1)

Ctrl + J (copy/new layer)

Ctrl + T (transform #2)



Ctrl + Shift + Alt + T
x 50

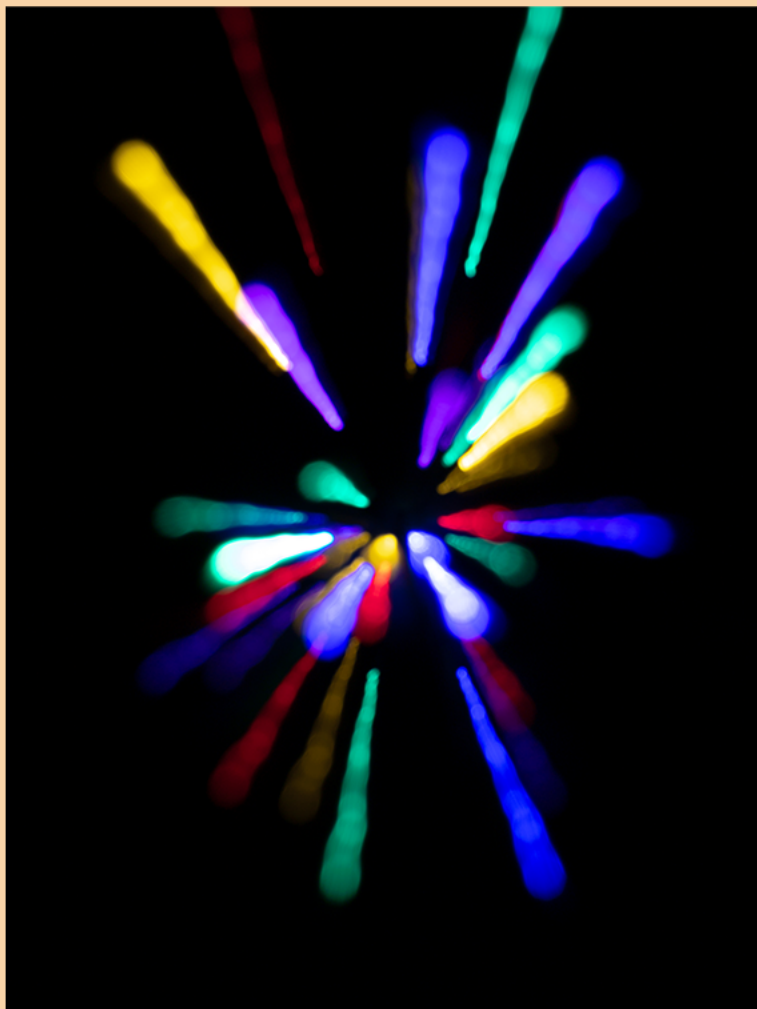


“Chair Lift”

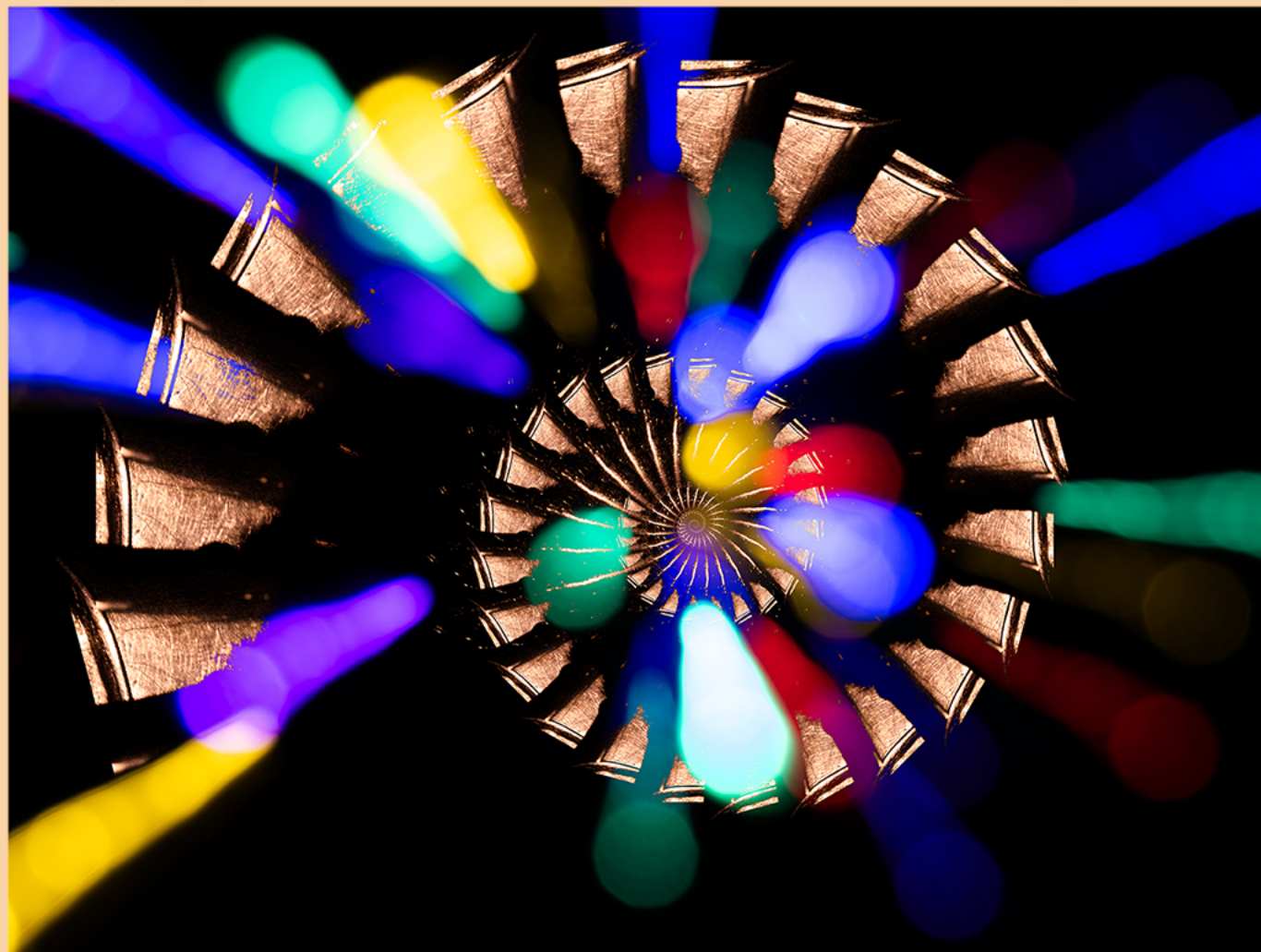
Copy > Transform >
& Repeat

Ctrl + Alt + Shift + T
x 90 (+)

LED ZOOM



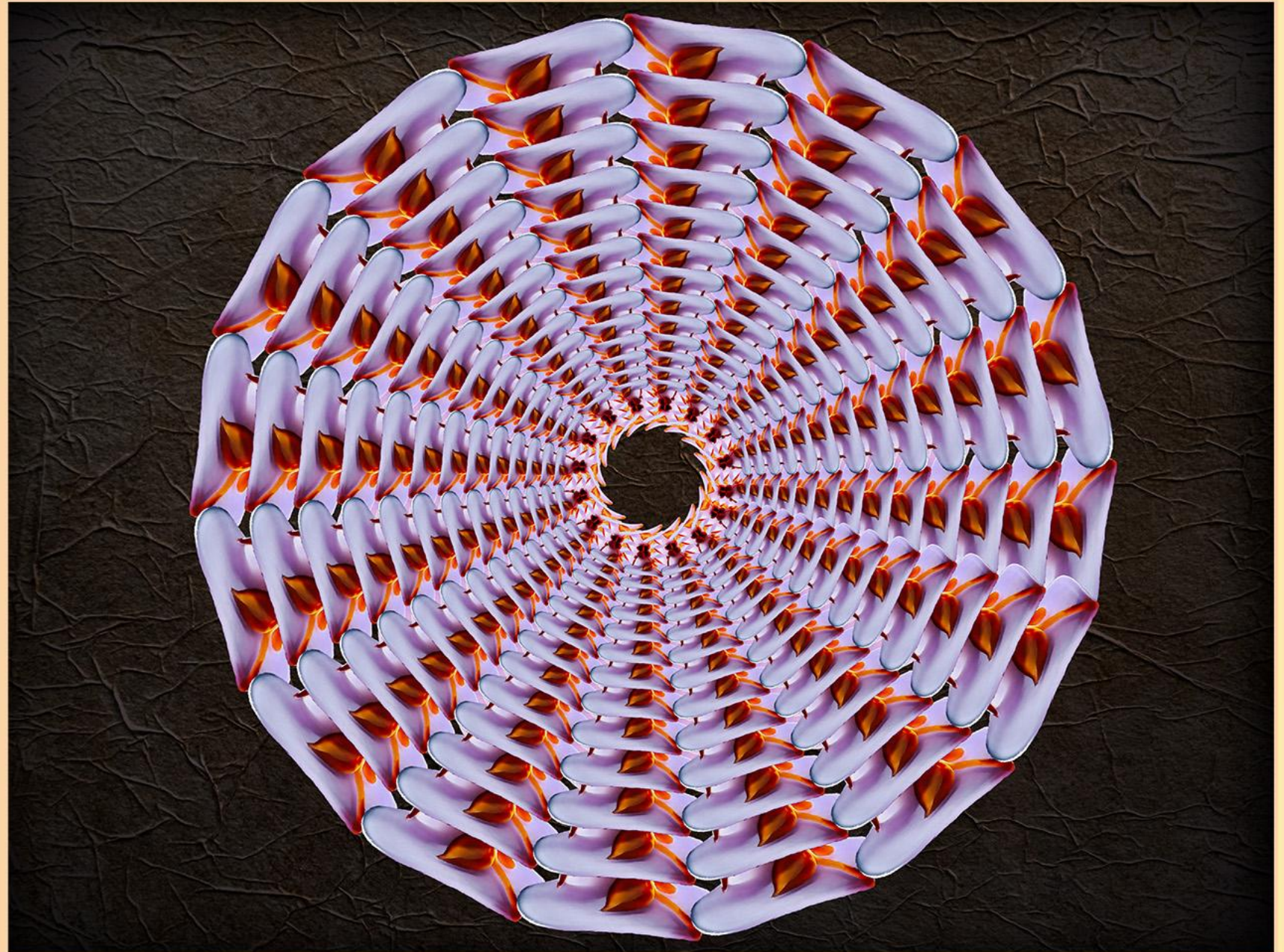
Copy ~ Transform ~ Repeat



Select Subj >
Ctrl + J x 16 >
Arrange in a circle



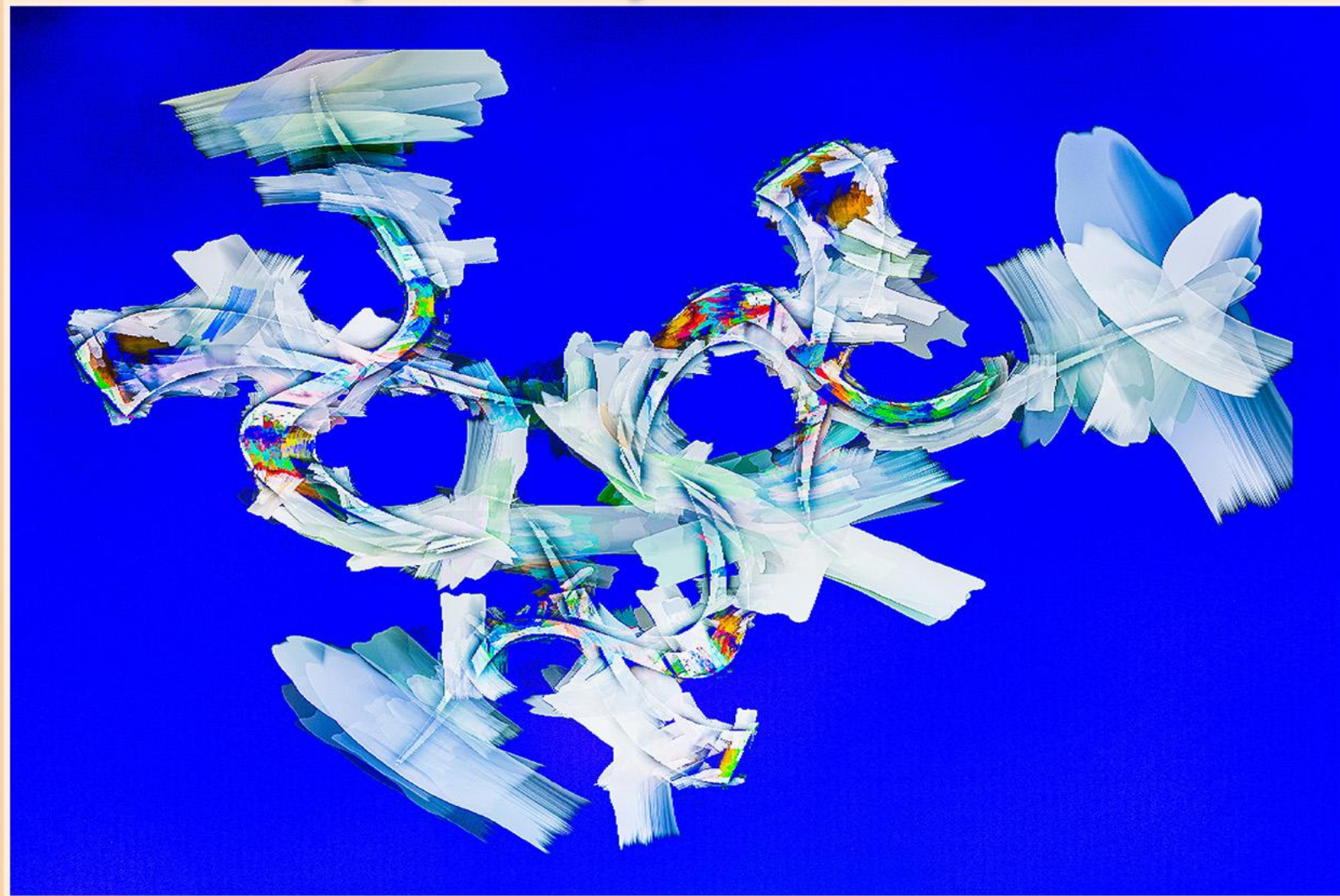
Copy Group >
Transform (smaller) >
Ctrl + Alt + Shift + T
x 27



"Itty, Bitty, Thin Slice"



Polar Coordinates >
Twirl >
Spherize



Summary

Shared ideas to improve “Ordinary” photos

“Ah - Ha Moments ” can be transformative !

Borders add emphasis & separate elements

Imagination + 3 Photoshop shortcuts :

CTRL + C

CTRL + T

FX

Future Challenges ?



Q & A

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