PHOTOSHOP: 2.3 FILTERS

As a new Photoshop user, you may find that some edits are best suited for filters. Filters can often get close to the look you are going for, without all the effort of tweaking this and that.

1. Convert for Smart Filters

Before you apply any filters, it is suggested to utilize Photoshop’s Convert for Smart Filters feature to make the filters apply in a non-destructive fashion. Photoshop will convert that layer to a smart object. Not all layers work with smart objects, so you may want to duplicate that layer, so the edits that are made are not made to the original file.

To Convert for Smart Filters, go to Filter > Convert for Smart Filters.

A window will pop up saying “To enable re-editable smart filters, the selected layer will be converted into a smart object.” Click OK.

To duplicate the original photo, right-click and select “Duplicate Layer”.

2. Explore Filters

Before adding a filter, make sure that the correct layer is selected. If you have chosen to take the smart object route, select the original background layer. If you have duplicated the original layer, select the duplicate.

To find the different filters available, click on Filter in the Menu Bar. Apply the different filters available to figure out exactly what they do.

“Filter Gallery...” is where you can see the preview of the different filters you can apply.
3. **Apply Filter on Selected Area**

If you do not wish to apply your filter on your entire image, start out by creating a selection. Either use the **Marque Tools** to make selections in the form of a shape, or the **Pen Tool** (with **Path** selected rather than Shape in the Options Bar) to customize your selection. Then, go to **Select > Save Selection**...

A window will pop up where you can change the name of the selection.

To apply a filter to only the selected area, go to **Select > Load Selection**...

A window will pop up. Under **Channel**, choose the name of the selection that you saved. Click “OK”.

Then, any filter you apply will only be applied to the selected area.

4. **Blending Mode**

Finally, you can change the blending mode of your filter for different effects. If you have chosen to transform your image into a smart object so that the filters you apply are Smart Filters, will see your filters under your background layer. You can choose to enable or disable the filter, or double click to edit the filter. You can also right-click the filter and select “Edit Smart Filter Blending Options...”. A window will pop up allowing you to change how you want your filter to blend with your image.