PHOTOSHOP: 3.2 LAYER MASKS

Layer masks are used to cover up a layer in part or in full, making it invisible. This is a non-destructive way of removing part of a layer so that you can go back retrieve those lost pixels once again. The destructive way of removing pixels is by using the eraser tool, or other tools that remove pixels. This tutorial will show you how to remove part of a layer without permanently deleting the pixels.

1. **Select the layer mask**

   The layer mask can be activated by clicking on the white box to the left of the Layer name.

2. **Brush Tool**

   After selecting the layer mask that you want to modify, select the Brush Tool from the toolbox across the left side of the program.

   White in a layer mask means 100% visible, black in a layer mask means 100% transparent, and gray in a layer mask means some level of transparency depending on how light or dark the shade of gray is.

   To remove information from your layer, make the foreground black and the background white. To add back the information, flip them so that the foreground is white and the background is white. You can find the background and foreground colors under the tools across the left side of the program.

   Choosing a color that is not black or white will be translated as some shade of gray.