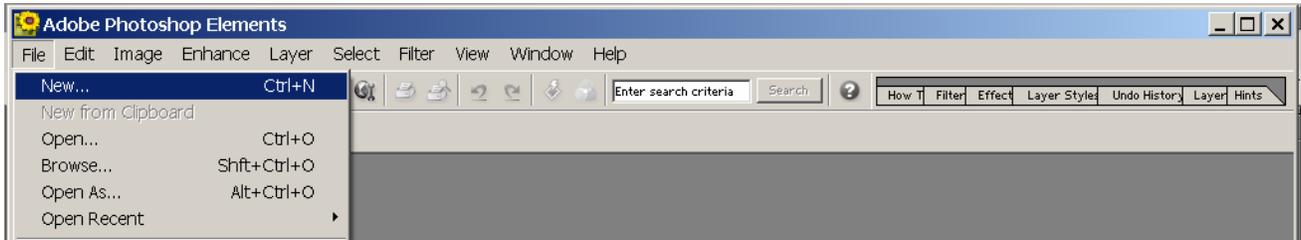




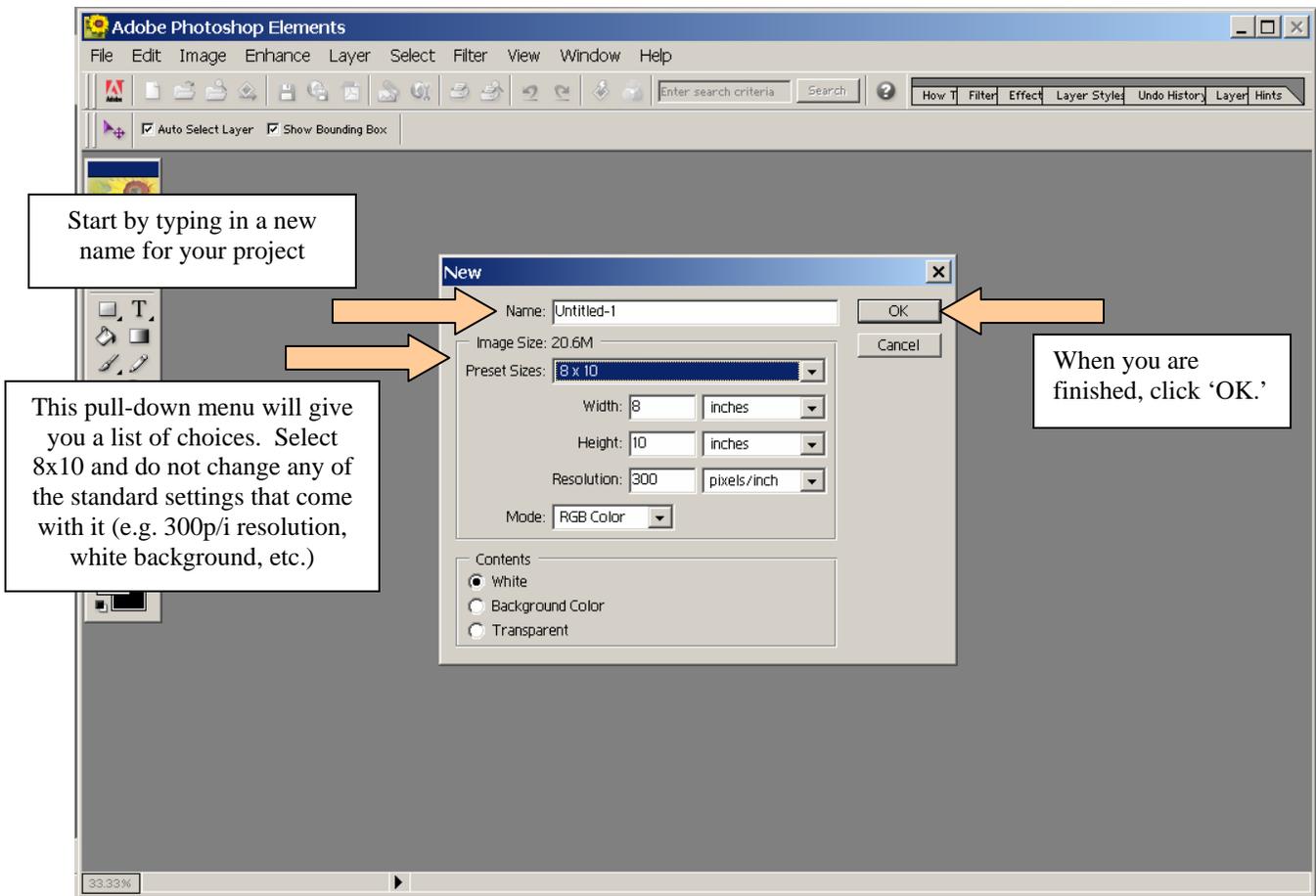
Smithsonian American Art Museum

Adobe Photoshop Collage Tutorial

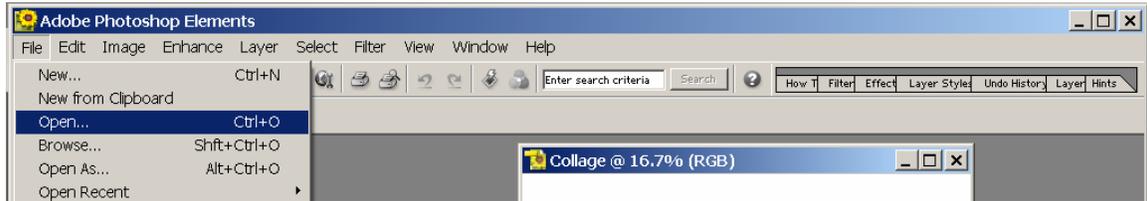
1. Choose File > New



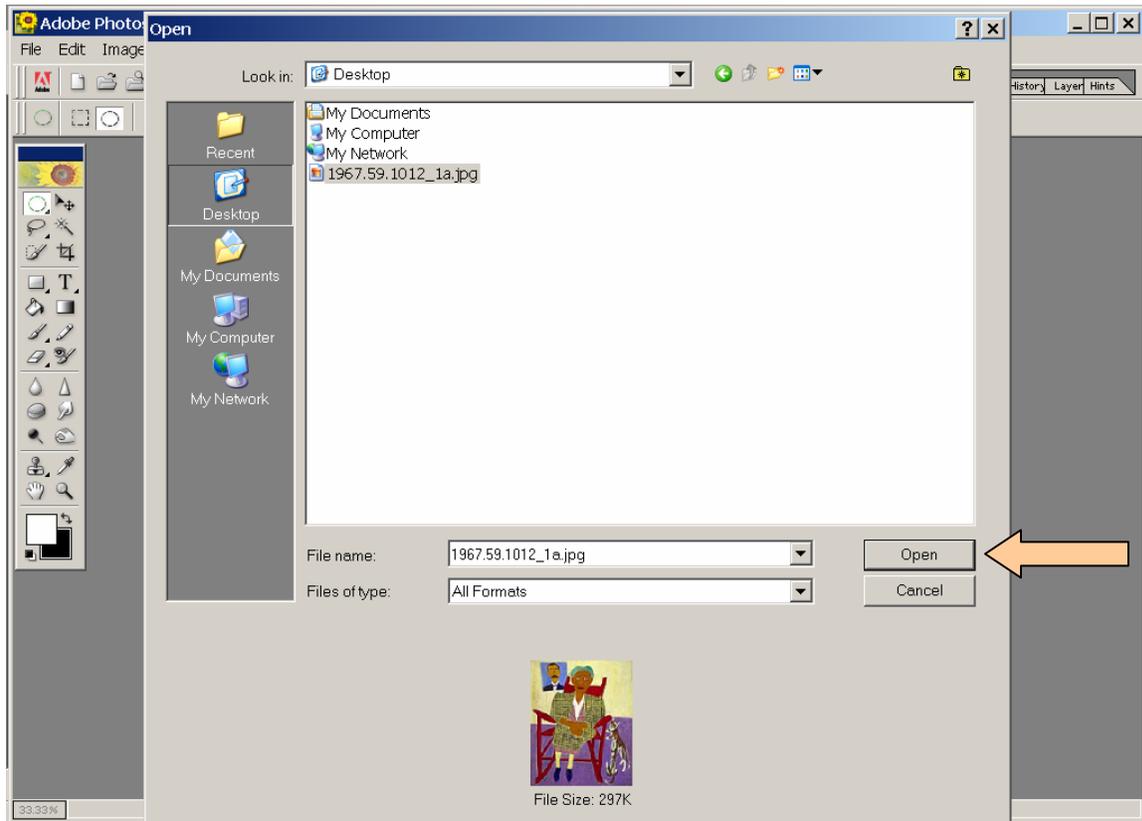
2. Create an 8x10 file (can be printed on standard size paper). This will be your blank canvas.



3. To open an image you want to add to the collage, choose File > Open



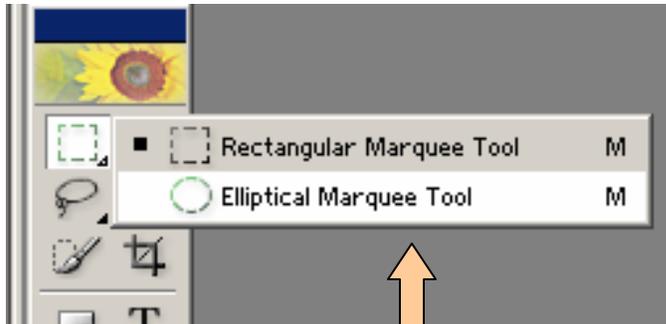
4. Find and select the image file, then click Open.



5. If you do not want to include the whole image in your collage, select the portions you wish to include. There are two methods for selecting a portion of an image.

Method 1:

- a. Choose the rectangular or elliptical Marquee tool from the toolbar on the left.



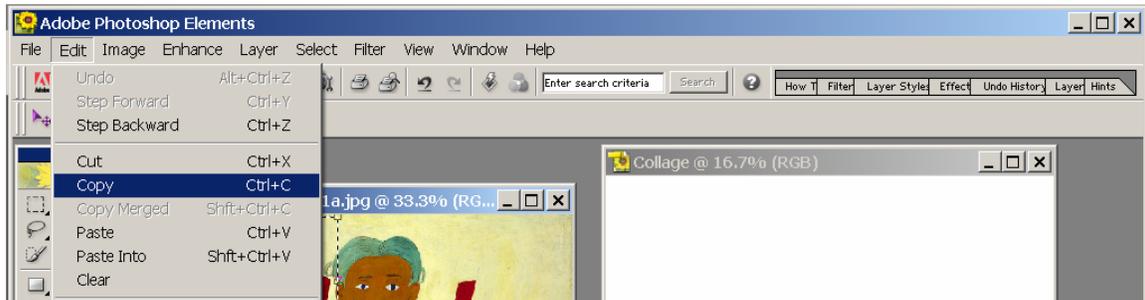
Right click on any tool to select options

- b. Use the Marquee tool to select the area of the image you would like to use in your collage by clicking in one corner and dragging the tool to the opposite corner of your chosen area.

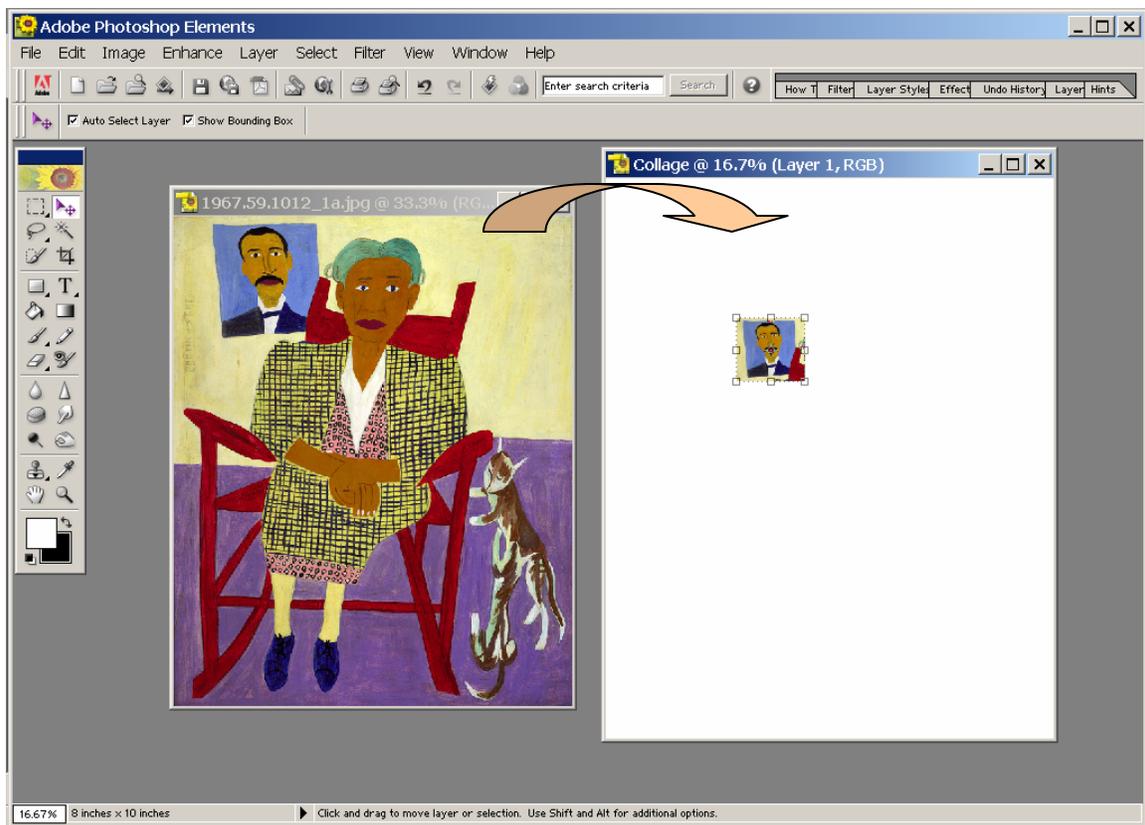
The dotted line will outline the area you have selected.



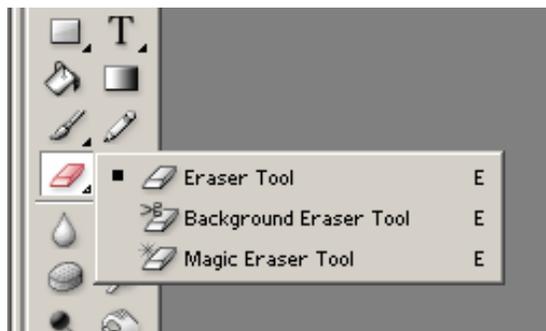
c. Select Edit > Copy or press the Control and 'C' keys at the same time.



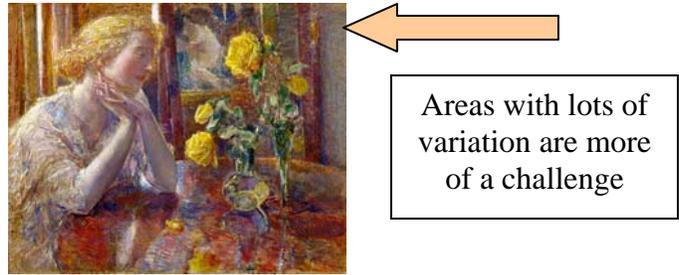
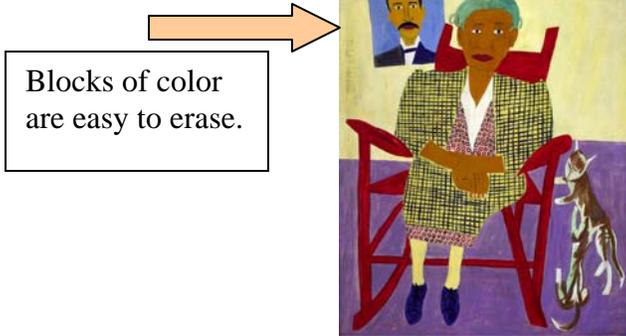
d. Complete steps 6 and 7 below to drag the copied area to the blank canvas.



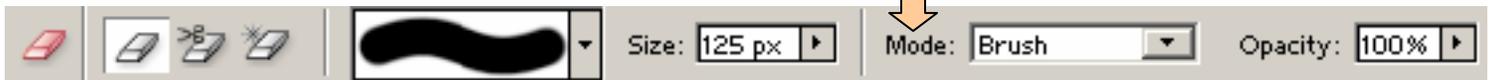
e. If you would like to remove any parts of the copied image, select the Eraser tool.



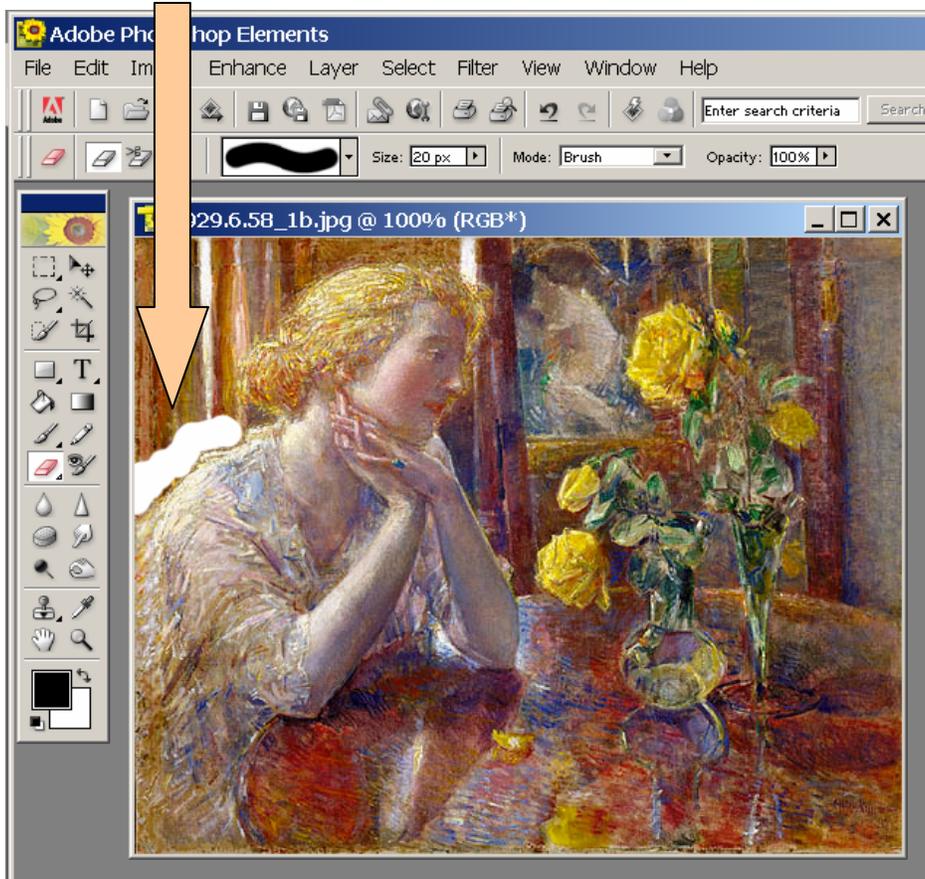
- f. If the areas you are erasing are simple areas of color, right-click on the Eraser tool and select Magic Eraser. If the areas have a lot of variety, you will have to erase by hand using the main eraser tool.



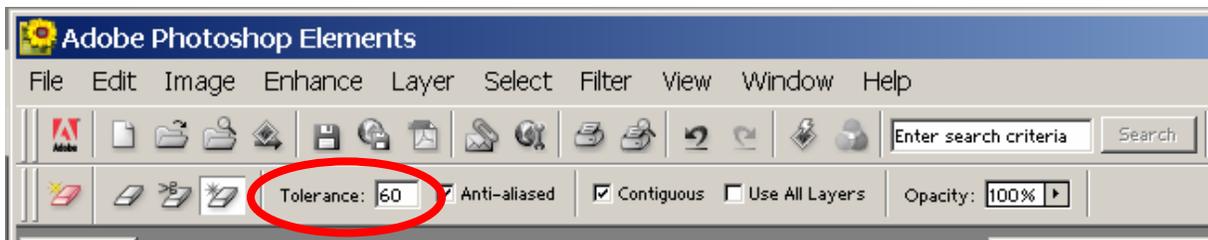
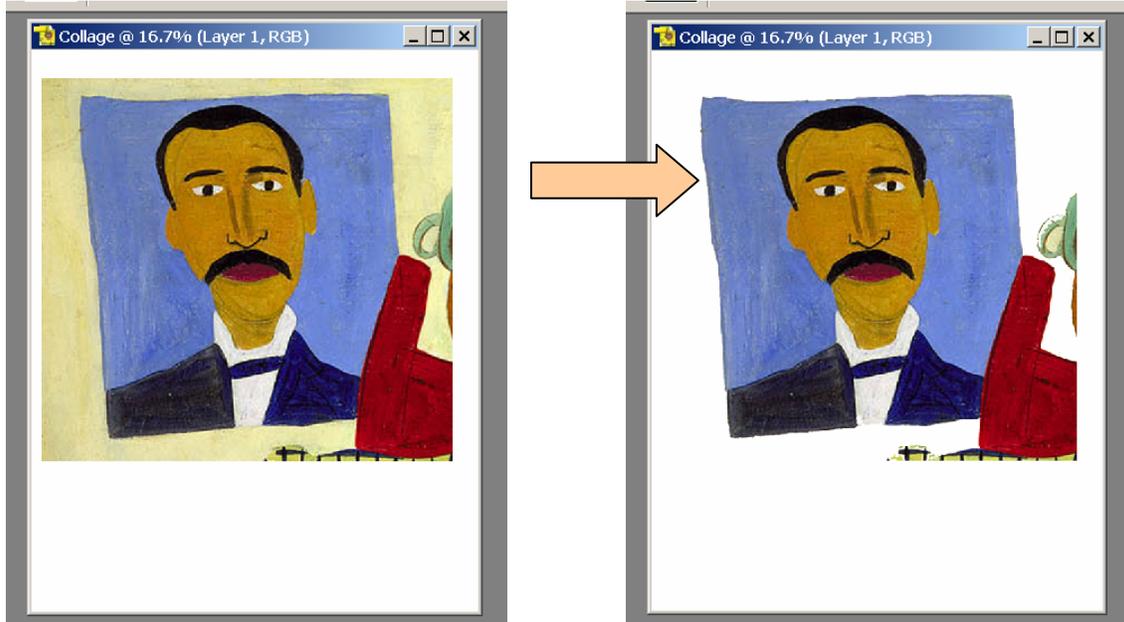
- i. MAIN ERASER: Design the optimal eraser from the options on the toolbar toward the top of the screen.



Cut away what you do not want to use by holding down the left mouse button as you move over it.

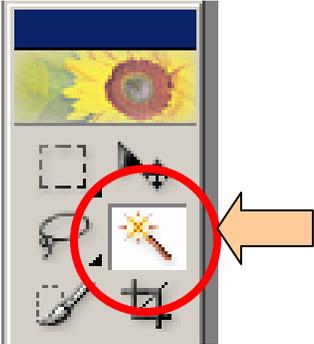


- ii. MAGIC ERASER: Click on areas of color that you would like to erase. If the Eraser does not erase every part of that area, increase the Tolerance number in the toolbar toward the top of the screen. If it erases too much, decrease the Tolerance number. *Remember, you can always undo mistakes using Undo History.*

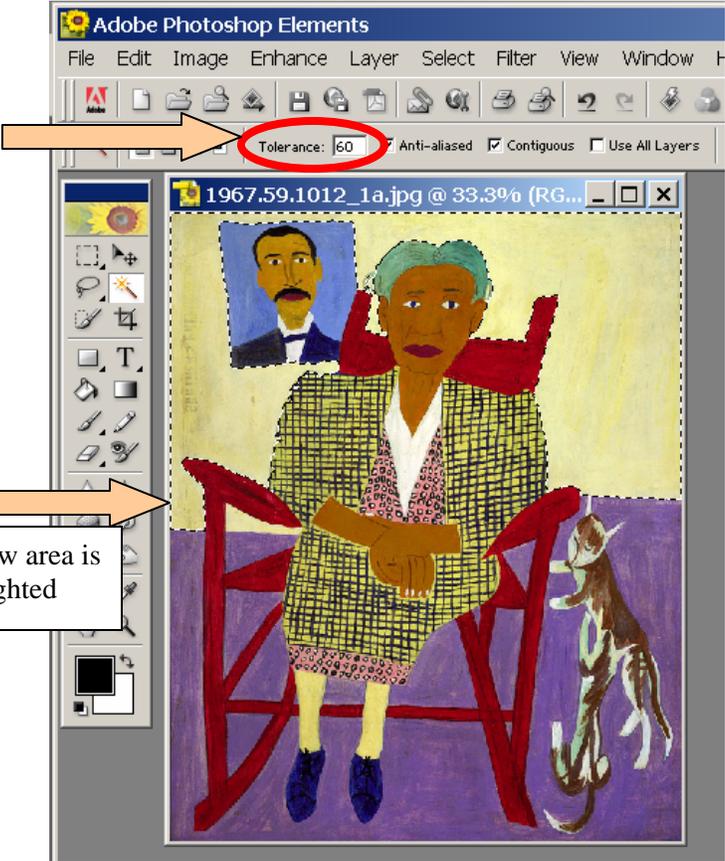


Method 2:

- a. Choose the Magic Wand Tool from the toolbar.

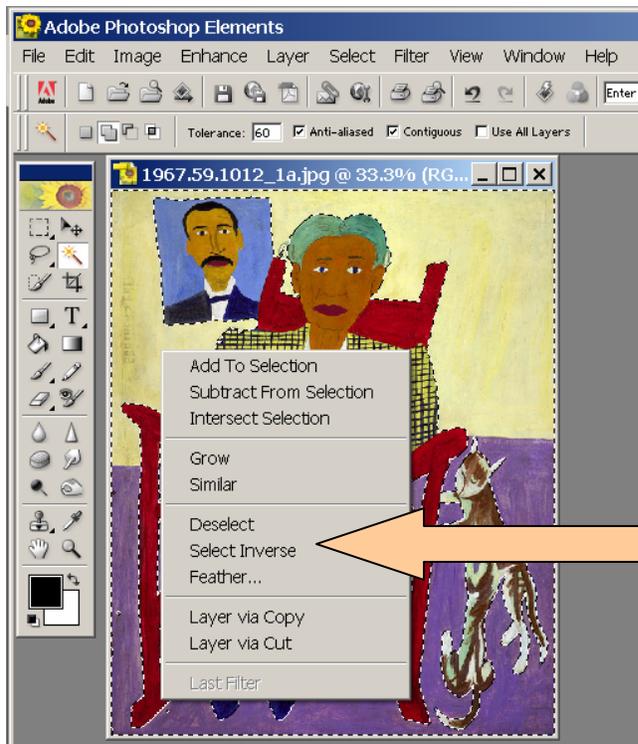


- b. Click on the section of the image that you would like to include in the collage. If the Magic Wand does not select every part of that area, increase the Tolerance number in the toolbar toward the top of the screen. If it selects too much, decrease the Tolerance number.



- c. To add areas to your selection, hold down the Shift key and click on all of the additional sections.

Both purple and yellow areas are highlighted.



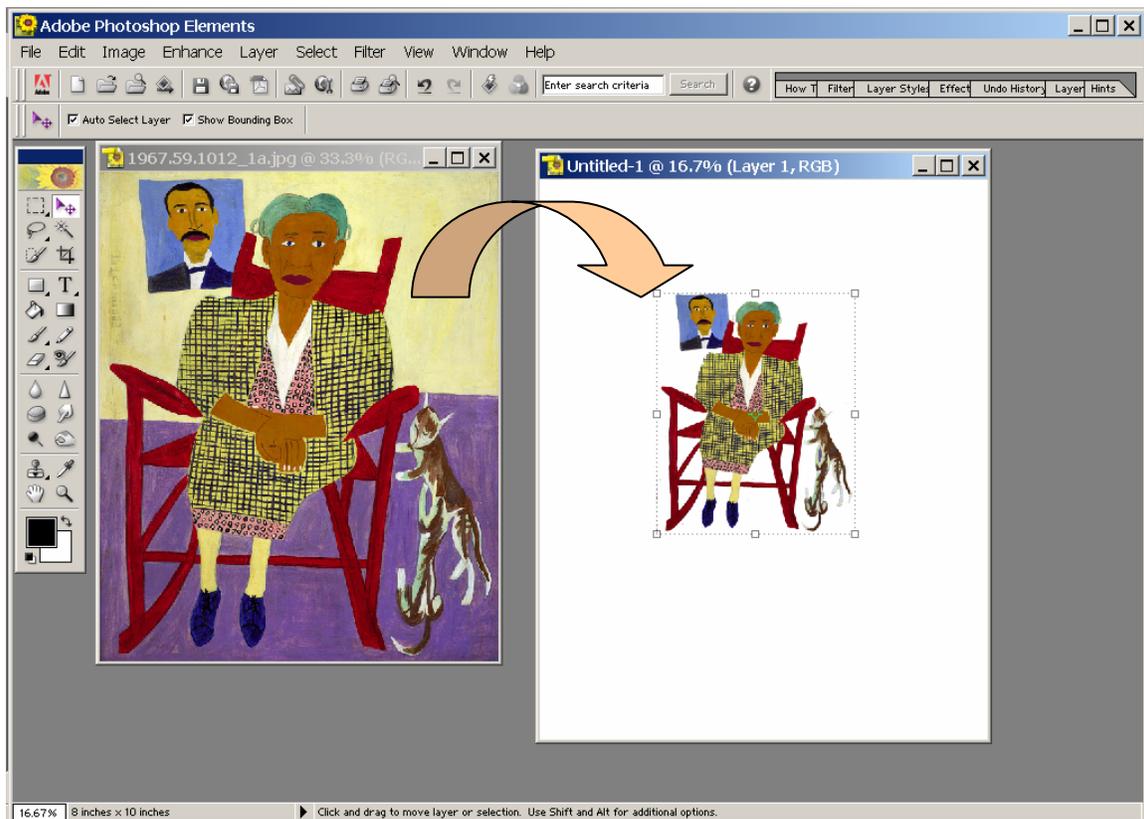
- d. For other options, right-click on a selected area with your mouse for a menu. A useful option is "Select Inverse." If you selected the background of this image, it would select all of the figures instead.

- e. Continue to step 6.

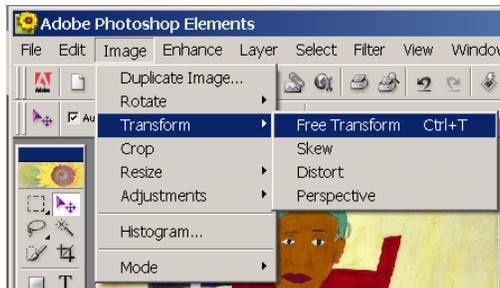
6. Select the Move tool.



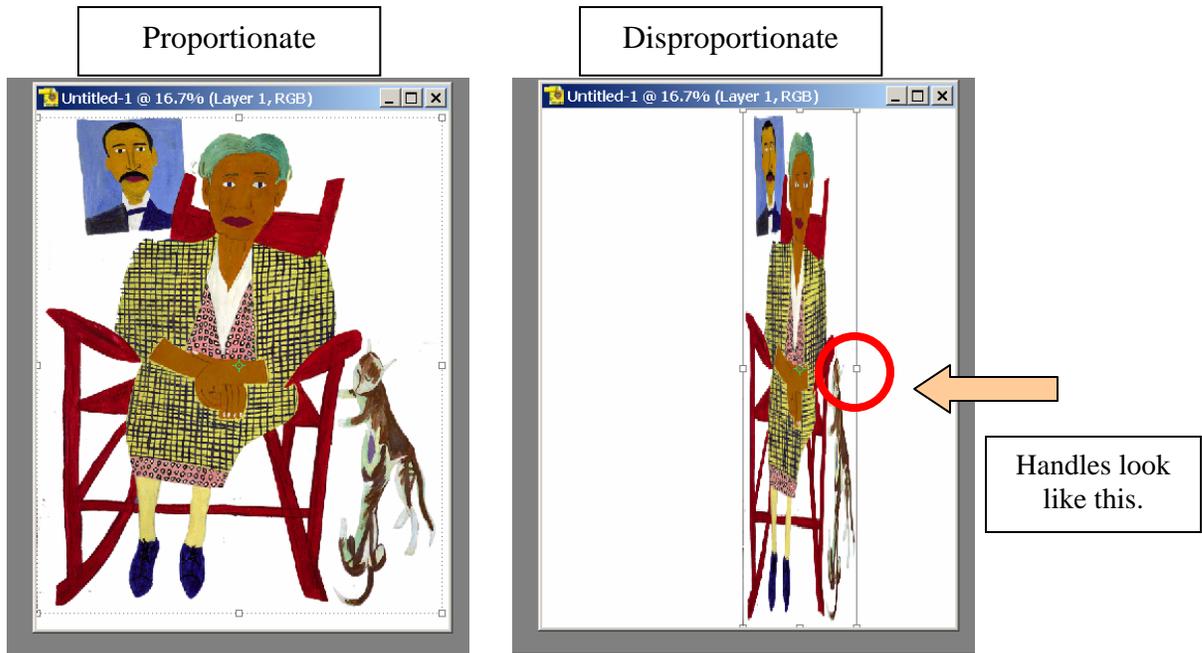
7. To copy the opened image into the collage, drag it into your blank canvas. (If the resolution of the two images is different, the size of the portion you are copying may change.)



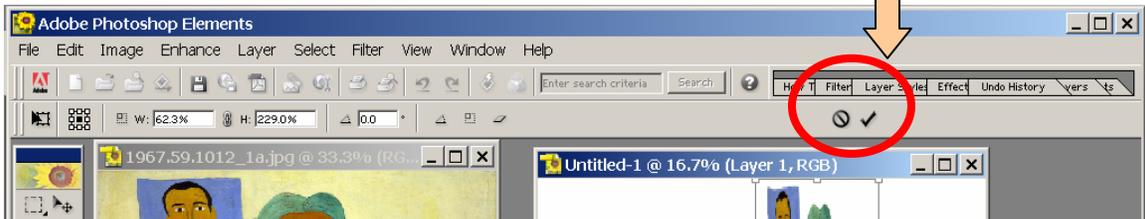
8. To resize, rotate, or move the copied image, choose Image > Transform > Free Transform



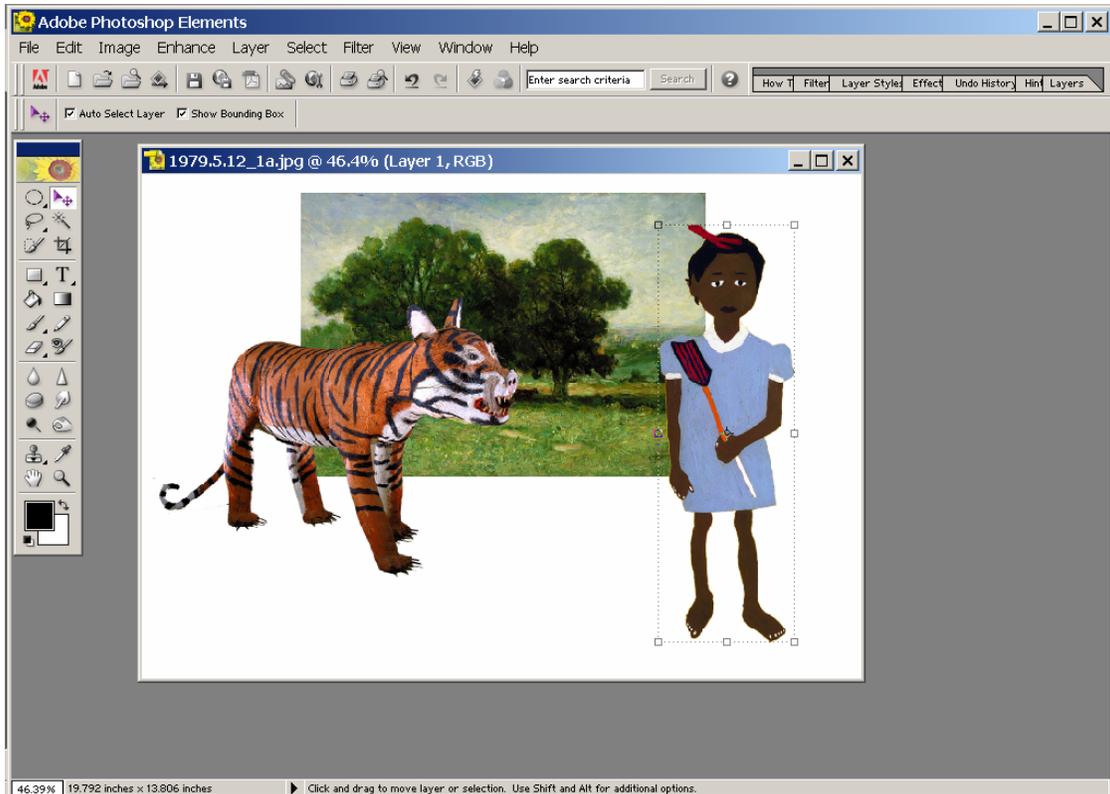
9. Drag the center, corner, or side handles to scale the image as desired. (to scale proportionally, hold down the Shift key as you drag the corner handle)



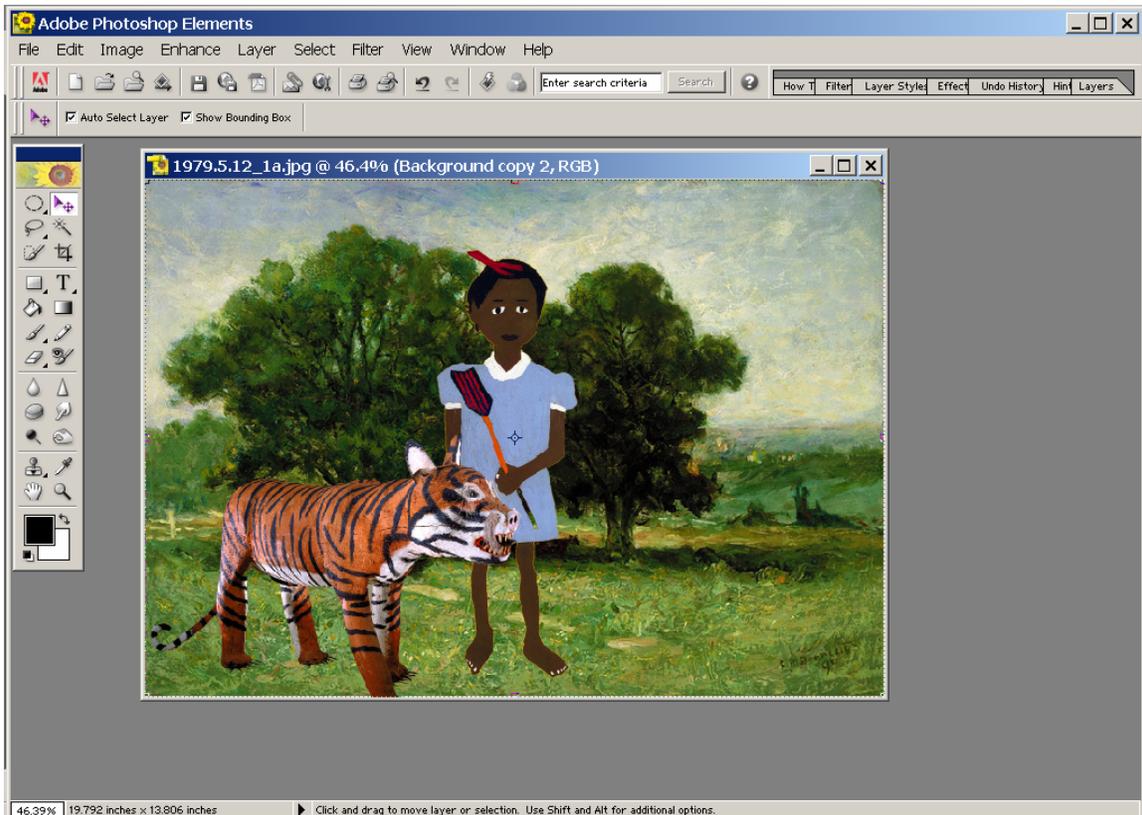
10. To commit the changes, click the OK button in the options bar.



11. Repeat steps 3-10 to add more images to your collage. I have chosen a landscape, a figure of a little girl, and a tiger:

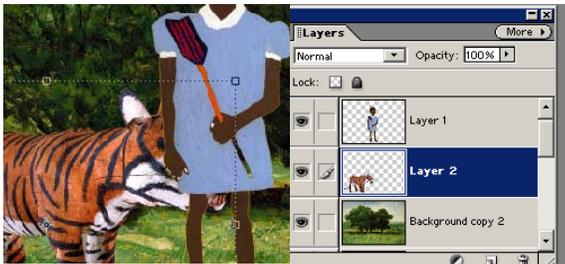


12. Use the Move tool to resize and rearrange your images to create a scene or design.

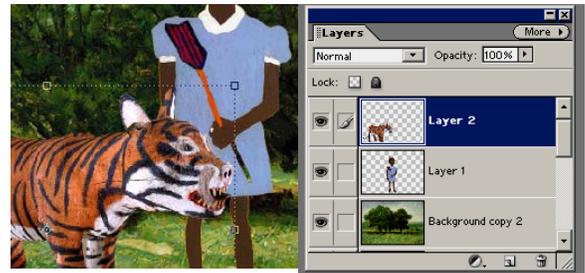


13. To adjust the order of your images (what goes in front of what), go to Window > Layers. Each layer represents an image you have copied in to your file. The layer on top in this list will show up in front of all the layers below. To switch the order, drag the layers on top of one another.

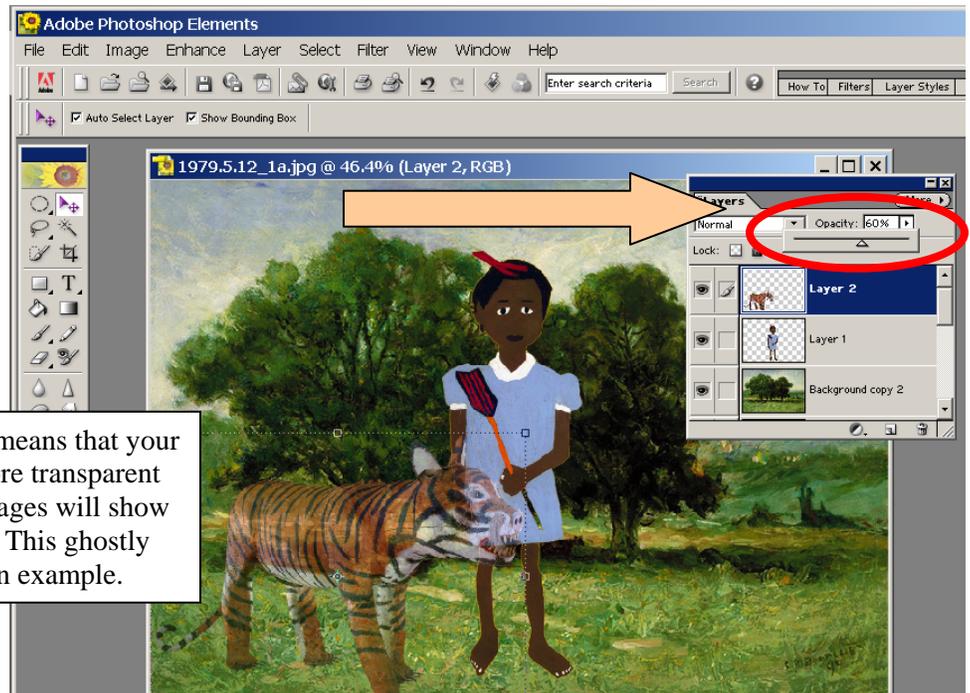
Girl in front of tiger



Tiger in front of girl

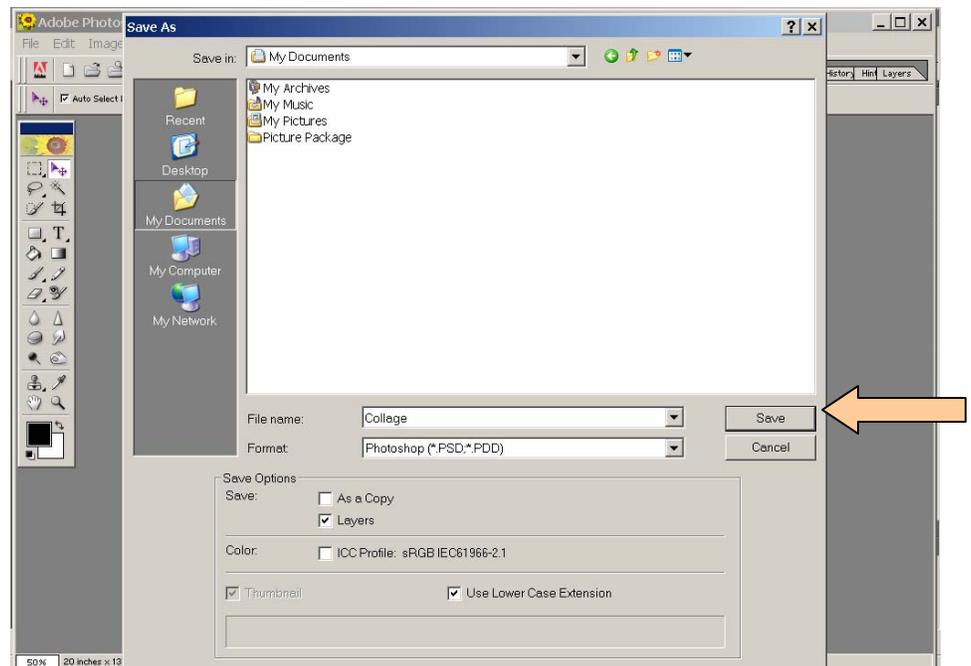
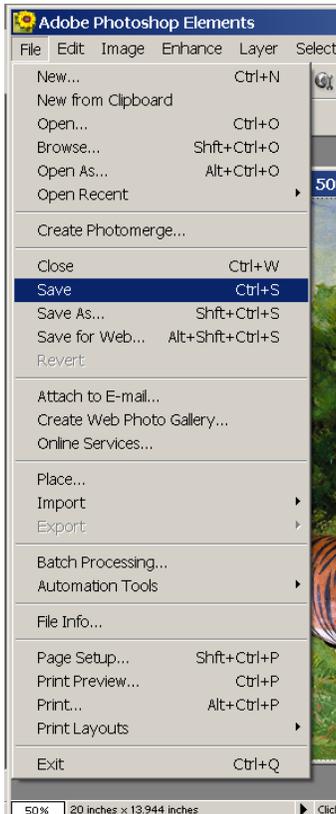


14. To adjust the opacity of the copied image, drag the opacity pop-up slider in the Layers palette.



Less opacity means that your image is more transparent and other images will show through it. This ghostly tiger is an example.

15. To save your collage, choose File > Save, specify a filename and location, and hit save.

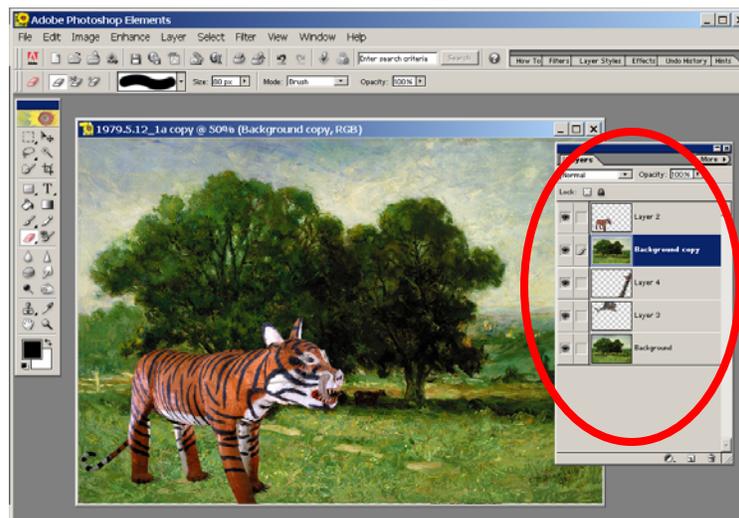


Photoshop Tip:

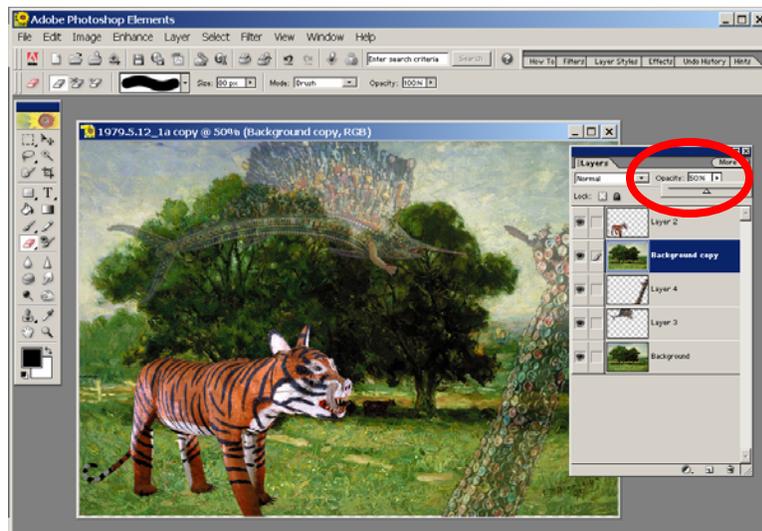
If you would like one of your images to mesh with one another like the giant fish and giraffe head in this wacky landscape, follow these steps:



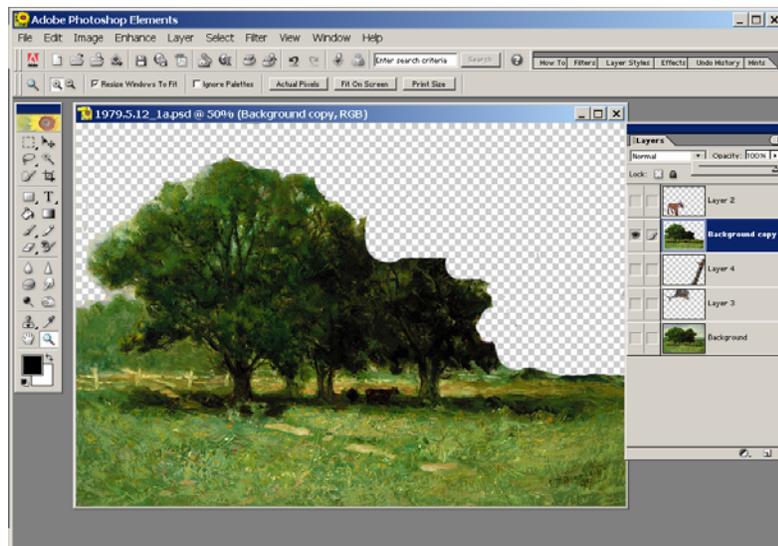
1. Using layers, make a duplicate of the background image layer (in this example, the landscape). Sandwich any images that you want to mesh with the background in between the main background layer and the duplicate.



2. Change the opacity of the duplicate layer to about 50% so that you can see the other images through it.



3. Erase all areas of the duplicate image where you want the other images to show through (it would look like this if all other layers were hidden):



4. Restore full opacity to the duplicate background layer.

