

2.01 Masking - Incongruous Images

Incongruity (in-con-GREW-i-tee) is "a state of two or more things lacking harmony, being incompatible, inconsistent, absurdly combined. "Such things are called "incongruous."

What makes anything funny or tragic is incongruity. Incongruous images are often used in advertisements and in movies—think *special effects*—attention-getting, and amusing.

Examples of incongruous images:

- A guy you know puts on a mask that gives him the face of a monster, clown, famous person, etc. (Not what you expect to see!)
- Helping to shop for groceries, you pick up a head of lettuce and notice that this head has facial features. (Startling!)
- The body of a movie character that nibbles on a magic doughnut gradually becomes that of an elephant. (Not the image a viewer expects to see!)
- A car going past you doesn't have wheels. It has the legs of an elephant instead.

Your assignment is to find images that you can take parts from and put them with other images to form new *incongruous* images:

Find images on the Internet and save them as files in your folder on the student server, and/or find photos you can scan and save in your folder. Use your graphics software to create new documents in which you combine incongruous portions of these found images.

Mask unwanted parts of the layers ensuring the edges of every part you use looks like they belong where you place them. If you put a new head on a body, you must choose and position the head so that it looks like it could have grown from that body. Its size, color, texture, and placement must look compatible with the body. One might see the neck coming through the collar of the shirt on the body, for instance. That edge is most important, but the edges of the hair cannot display a reminder of the wallpaper that was once behind it when the body is in front of a snowy hillside.

Produce an image that combines a portion of a human figure with something else — a portion of a different human, an animal, or one or more parts.

Print this new picture, along with images of the original pictures from which you took the portions that you combined, and cite on each the URL where it was found. Label these with your full name and class period on the front of each sheet, and hand them in.

If you are using Adobe Photoshop, save the file as [LastName]Incongruous.psd. If you are using GIMP, save the file as [LastName]Incongruous.xcf . Save the project as a JPEG with the filename [LastName]Incongruous.jpg.

See the technical guide for masking on the next page.

Basic steps to creating a layer mask:

1. Ensure that you have your target layer (the layer on which you want to create the mask) selected and visible.
2. On the bottom of the layers panel, click on the layer mask icon. Once you add the layer mask you will see a layer mask thumbnail added to the target layer.
Note: In order to mask, you must have the layer mask thumbnail selected, so if you notice that your brush is painting, instead of masking, you probably do not have the layer mask thumbnail selected, so click on it.
3. After adding the layer mask, you will use your brush tool to either hide or reveal parts of the layer. Make sure your foreground color is set to black, which will hide parts of the layer. Select the brush tool and then use your brush picker to select an appropriate brush size and an appropriate brush hardness. Try using something less than 100% for hardness to help get a more natural blend at the edges. Begin to drag on the layer with the black brush and you should see that it begins to hide portions of the layer, and you can see what is masked on the layer mask thumbnail. Remember, “Black Conceals”.
4. If you mask more of the image than you want, you can switch the foreground color to white and then use your brush to make areas of the layer visible. Remember, “White Reveals”. Note: If you want to fully hide or reveal parts of the layer, you need to use black and white. Any shade of grey will work similar to opacity, and will only mask a percentage of layer (density).
5. At any time in the future if you want to edit the mask, you simply come back to the layer, click on the layer mask thumbnail and then use your brush tool to modify the mask.

Note: If you double click on the layer mask thumbnail, the Properties panel will be displayed, which will allow you to adjust the density of the mask or feather the edges.