Refining Your Image:

Eliminate Distractions; Enhance Positives
Session 4

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Goals

1. Become more aware of distractions
2. Learn to draw the viewer's eye to your main character

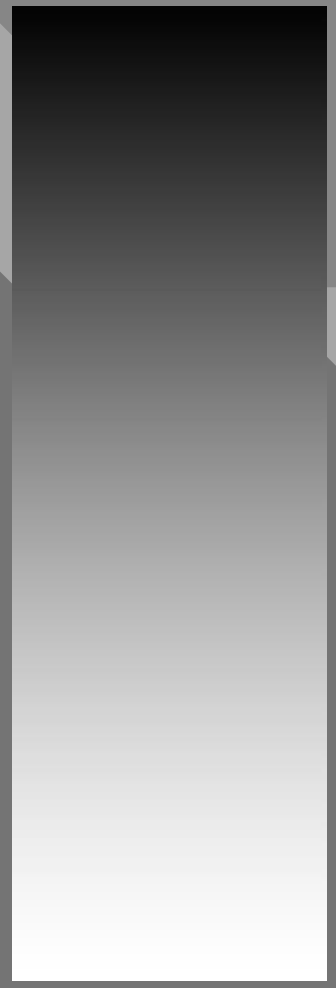
Second Half of the Equation: Accentuating the Positive

It’s about what you see…

and what you ***do*** with what you see.

Review: Transition Types

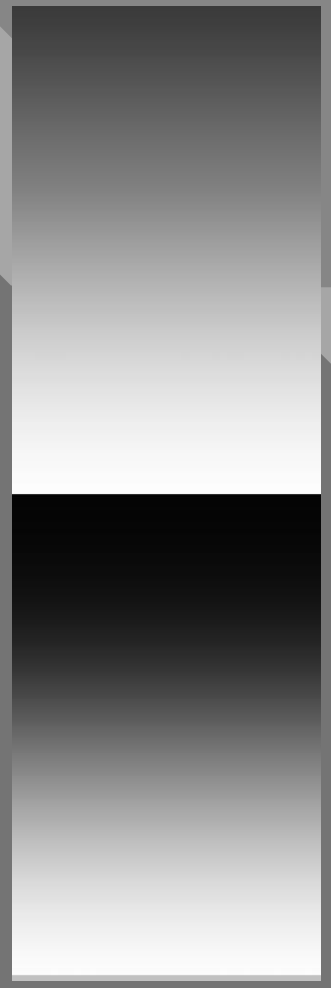
- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)



Luminosity

Review: Transition Types

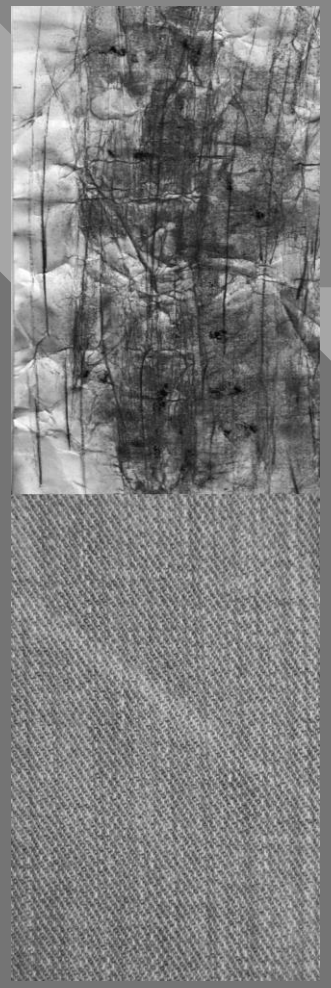
- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)
- Contrast (more dynamic range between adjoining tones in one section than another)



Contrast

Review: Transition Types

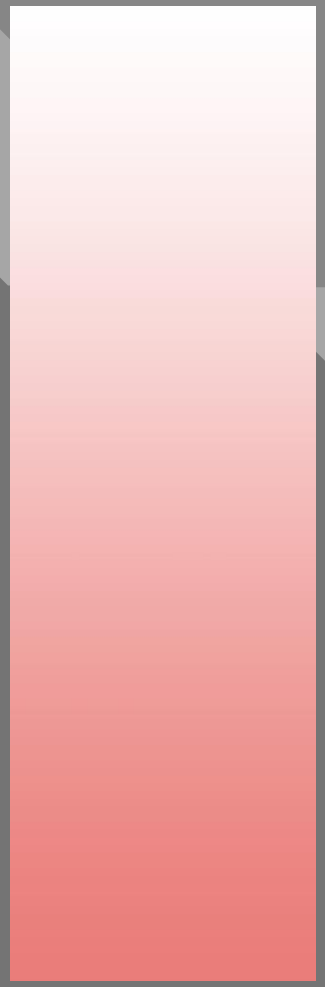
- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)
- Contrast (more dynamic range between adjoining tones in one section than another)
- Detail/texture (more in one section than in another)



Texture

Review: Transition Types

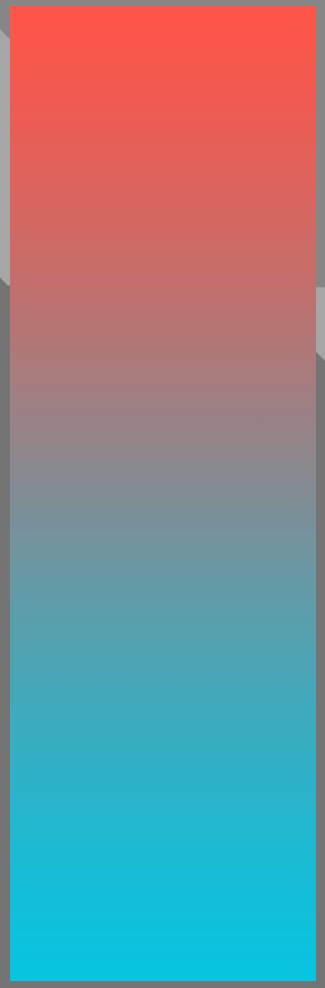
- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)
- Contrast (more dynamic range between adjoining tones in one section than another)
- Detail/texture (more in one section than in another)
- Color saturation



Saturation

Review: Transition Types

- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)
- Contrast (more dynamic range between adjoining tones in one section than another)
- Detail/texture (more in one section than in another)
- Color saturation
- Color temperature (cool to warm or reverse)



Color Temp.

Review: Transition Types

- Luminosity (lightness, brightness, or value)
- Contrast (more dynamic range between adjoining tones in one section than another)
- Detail/texture (more in one section than in another)
- Color saturation
- Color temperature (cool to warm or reverse)
- Atmospheric perspective (near to far)

Atmospheric

Vincent Versace Example

- Luminosity
- Contrast
- Saturation
- Color Temp.
- Texture

Vincent Versace

Joe Brady Example

- Luminosity
- Contrast
- Saturation
- Color Temp.

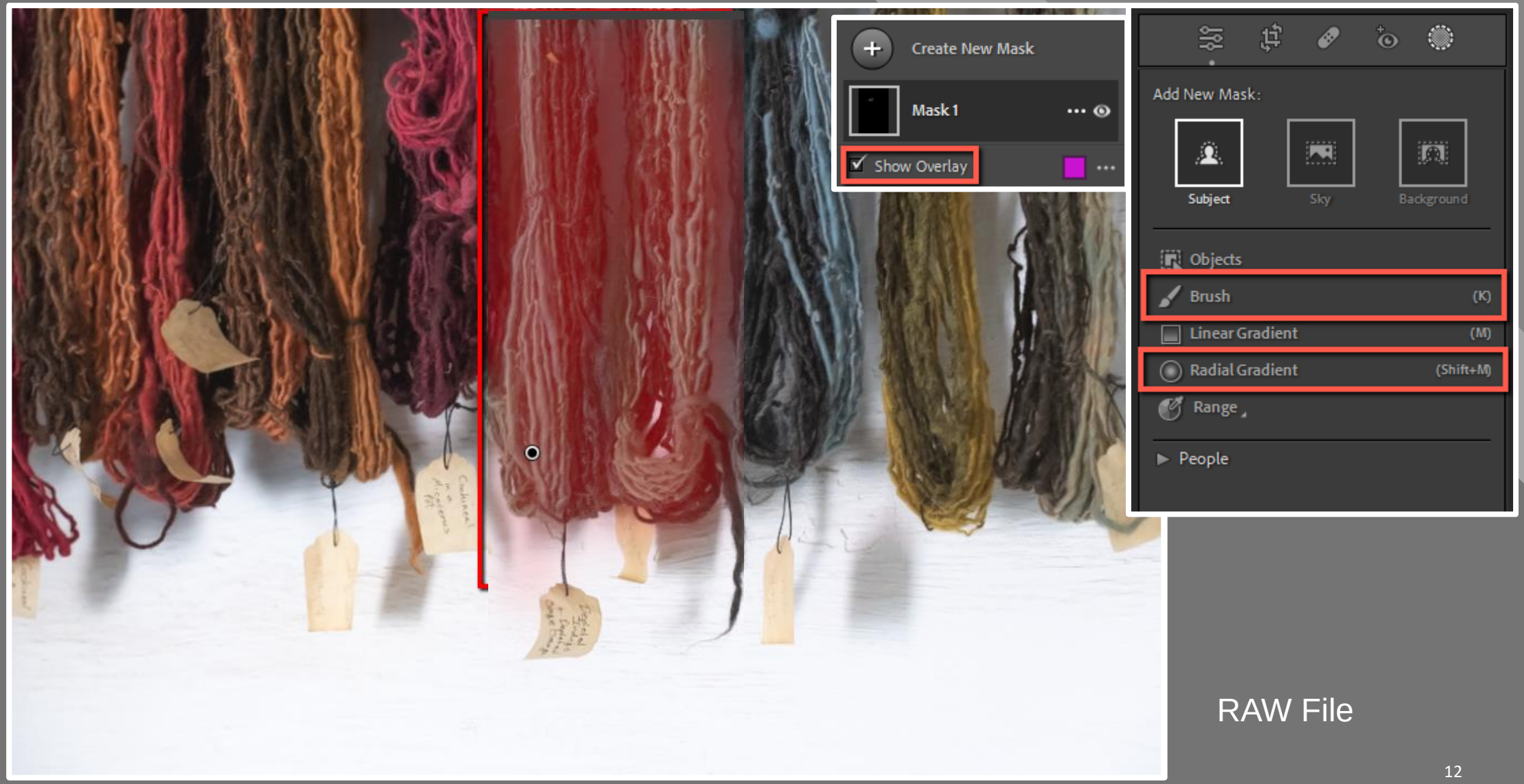
Final Image

Joe Brady

Consider Using These Tools

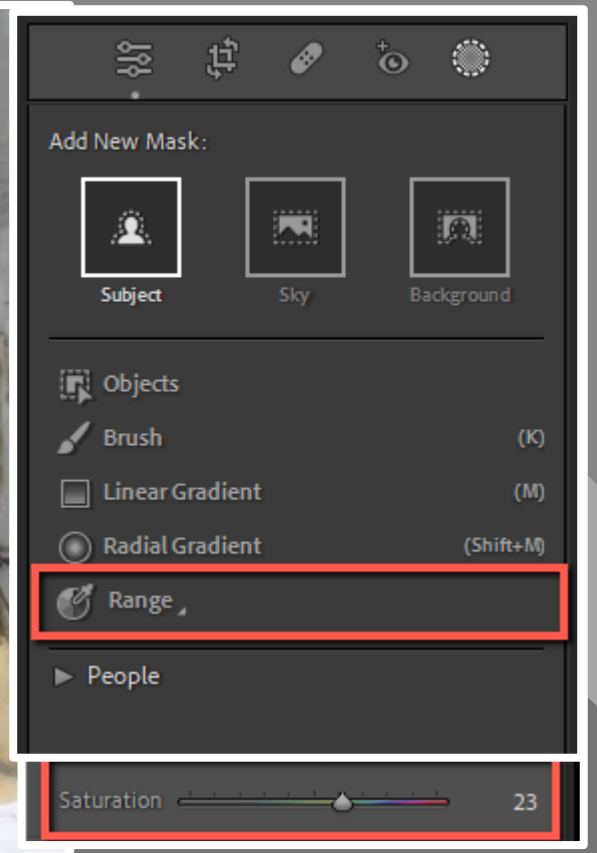
- Cropping
- Dodge and Burn
- Saturation Adjustment
- Blurring
- Foreground / Background Relationship
- Transposition (flipping the image)
- Vignette and Spotlight

Saturating / Desaturating: Lightroom



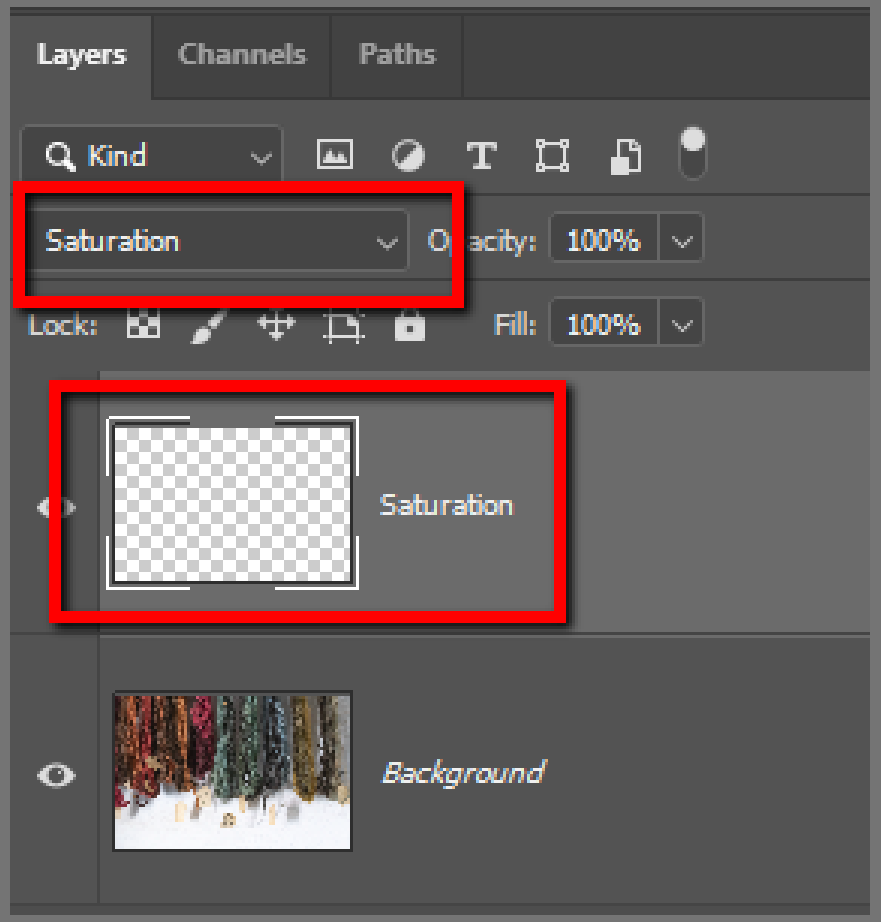
RAW File

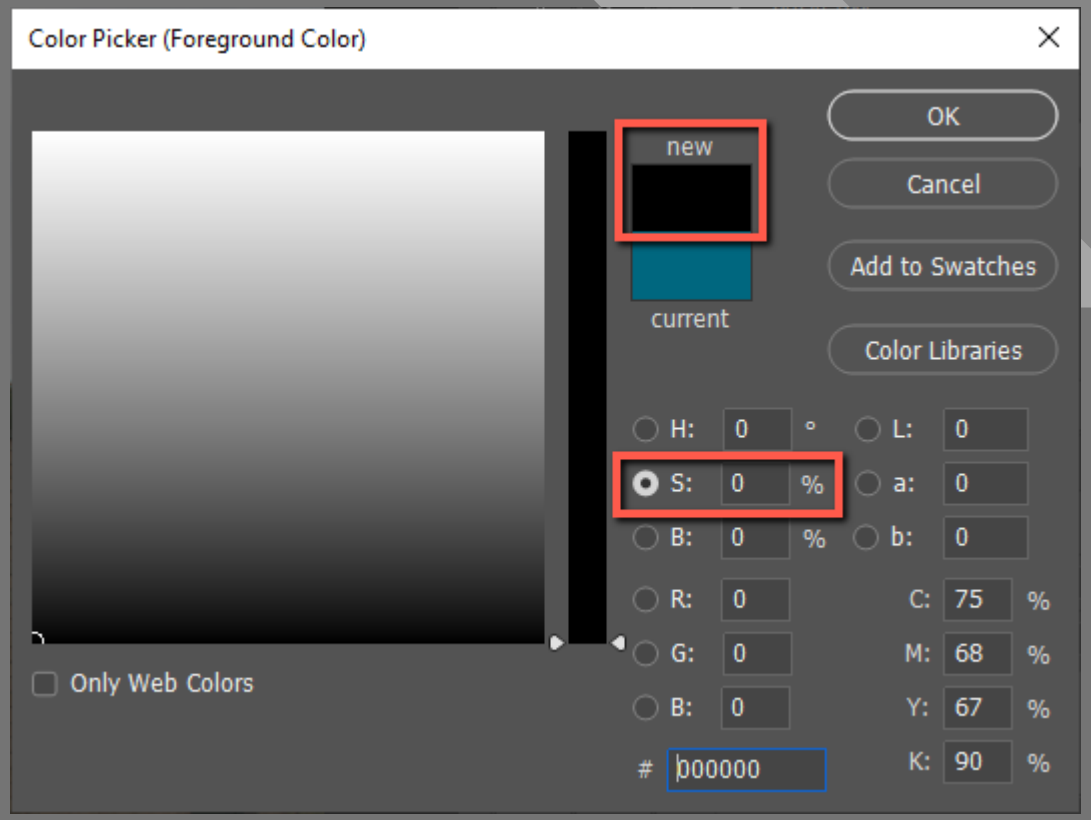
Saturating / Desaturating: Lightroom

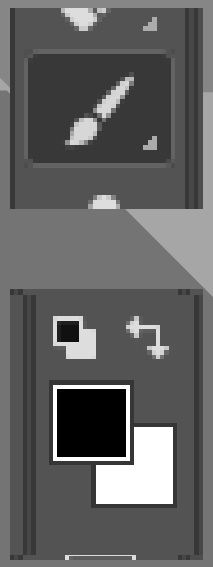


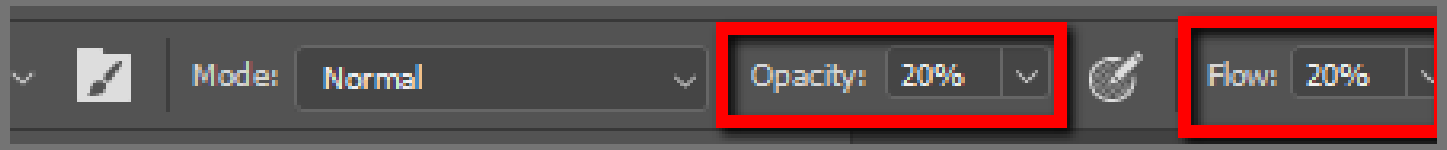
RAW File

Saturating / Desaturating: Photoshop

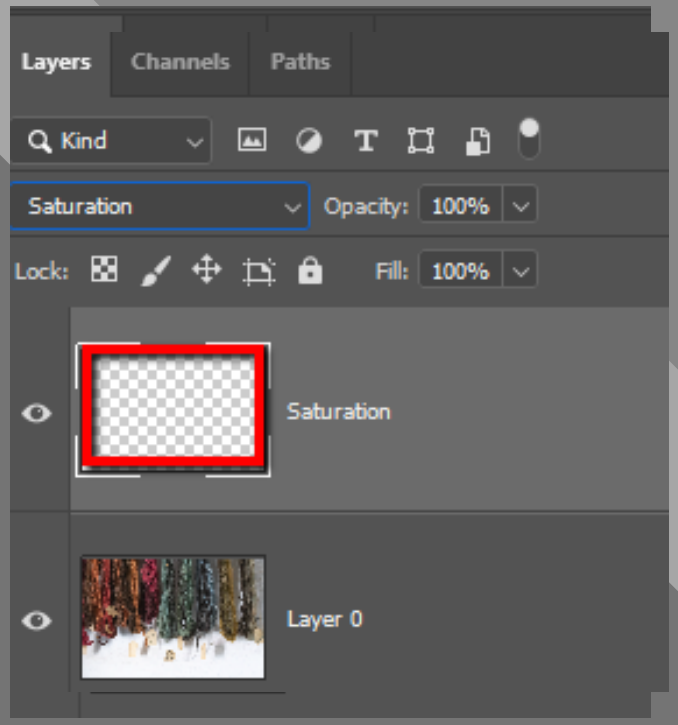




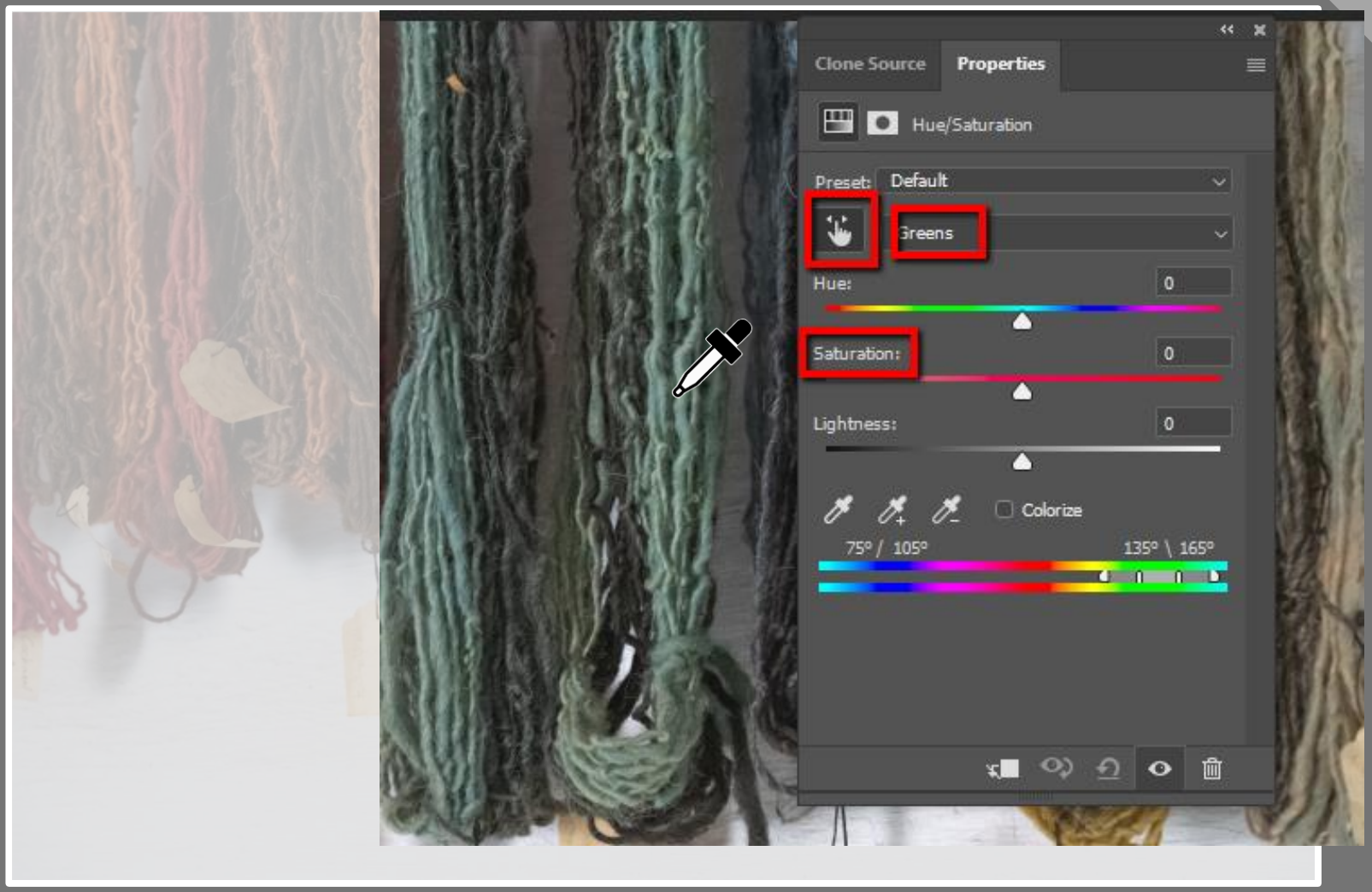


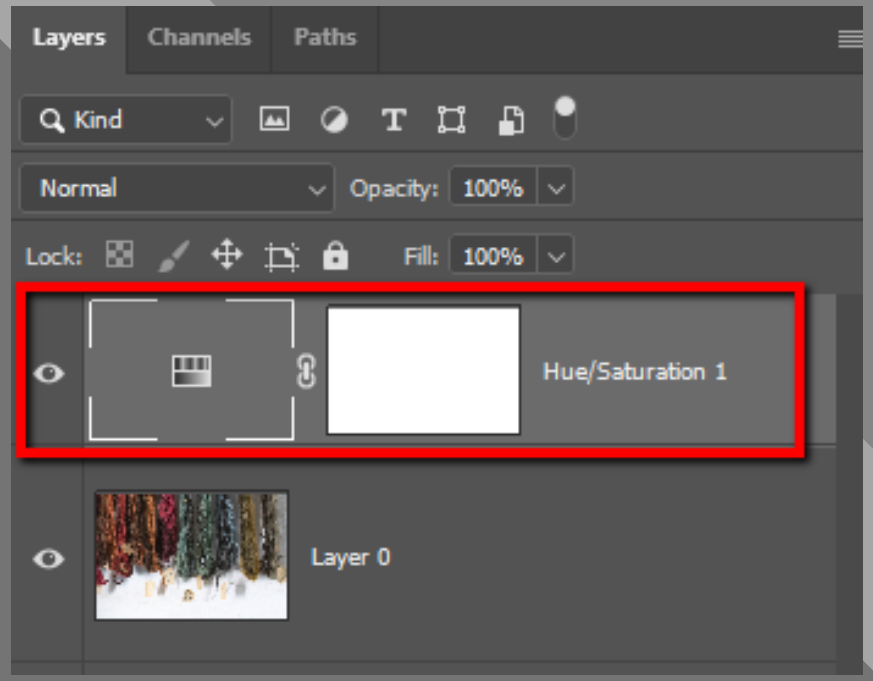


Saturating / Desaturating: Photoshop



Saturating / Desaturating: Photoshop





Consider Using These Tools

- Cropping
- Dodge and Burn
- Saturation Adjustment
- Blurring
- Foreground / Background Relationship
- Transposition (flipping the image)
- Vignette and Spotlight

Blurring: Lightroom

RAW File

LR “Blur”

Blurring: Photoshop

RAW File

Blur & - Exp

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Post-production Transitions:

- Luminosity
- Saturation
- Detail/texture
- Color temperature

RAW File

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Distractions:

- Sides and top
- Warm background areas
- Textured background
- Light areas

RAW File

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements to be made:

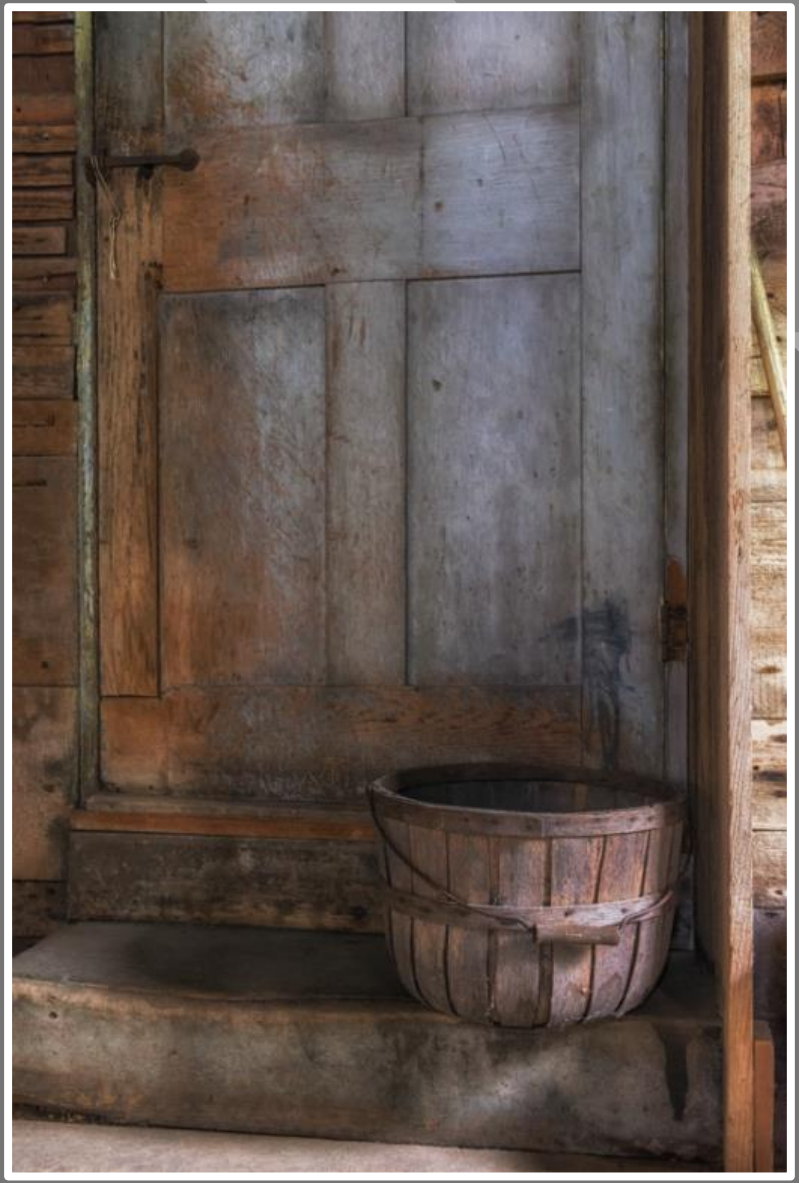
- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background
- Blur background
- Dodge and burn
- Noise reduction, sharpen, vignette, spotlight

RAW File

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

- Basic tone and color



Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

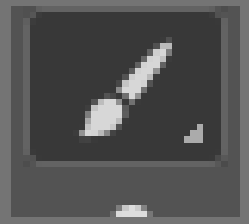
Enhancements:

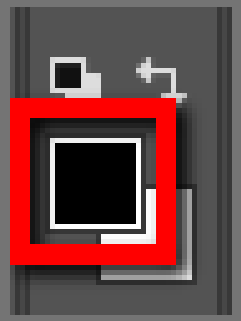
- Basic tone and color
- Crop

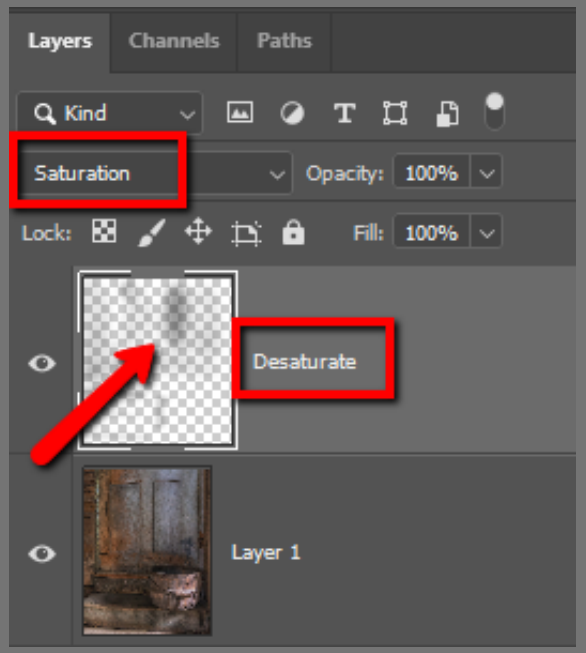
Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background



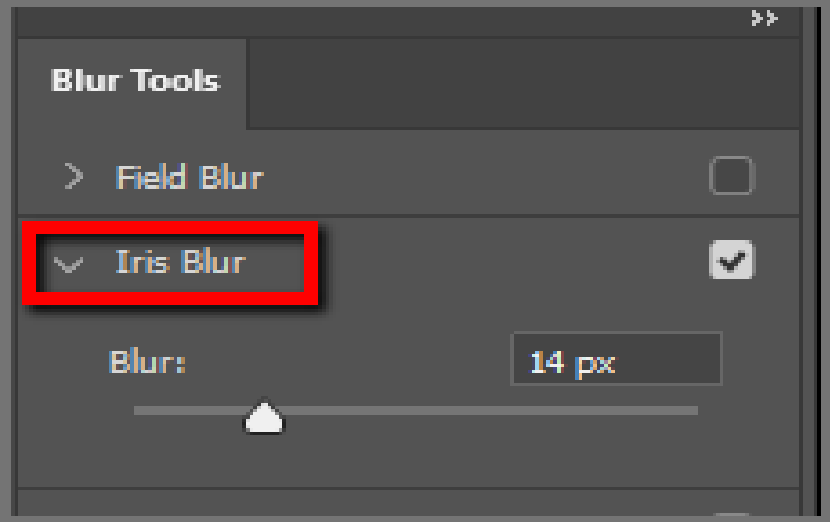




Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

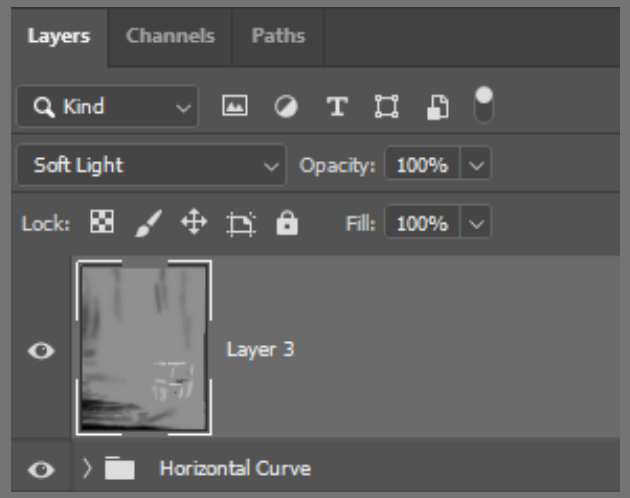
- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background
- Blur background



Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

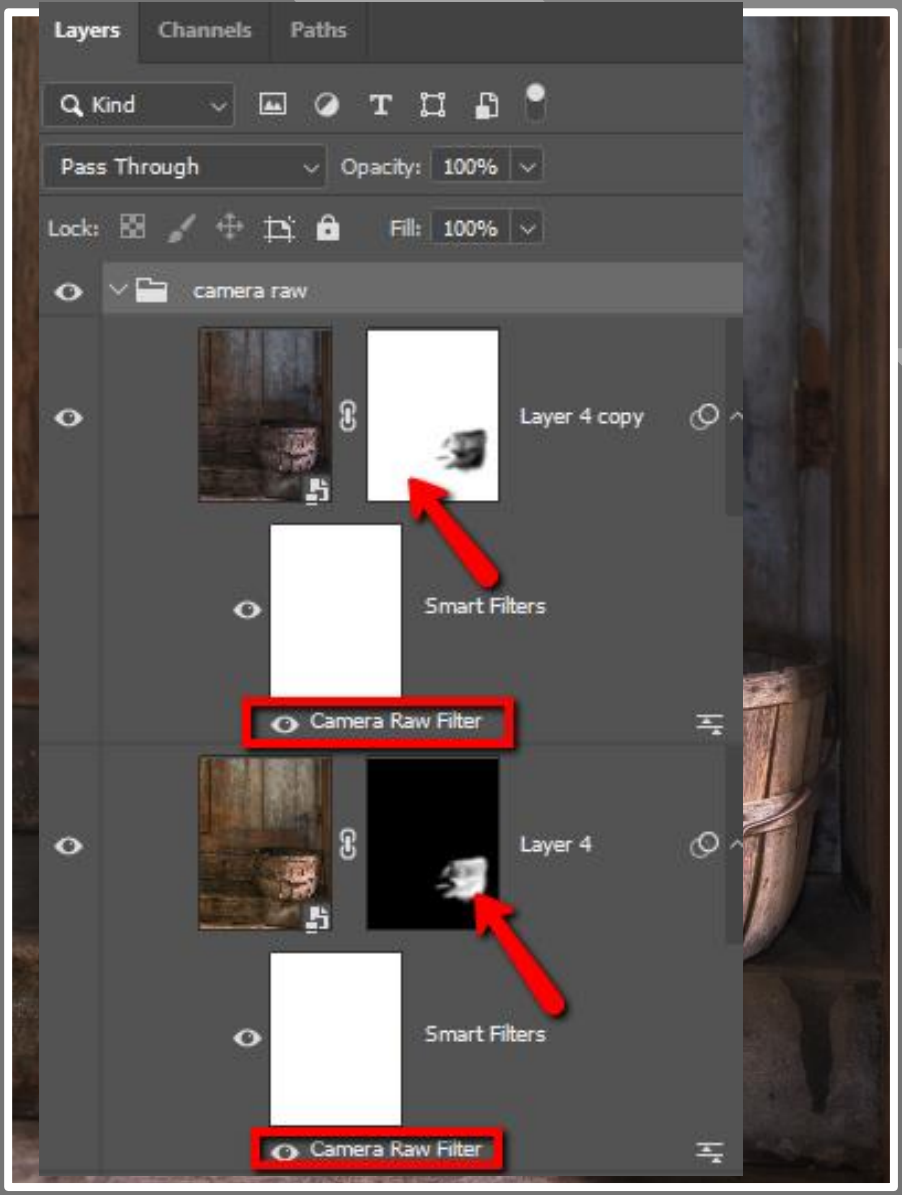
- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background
- Blur background
- Dodge and burn—step 1



Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background
- Blur background
- Dodge and burn—step 2



Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

Enhancements:

- Basic tone and color
- Crop
- Desaturate background
- Blur background
- Dodge and burn
- Noise reduction, sharpen, vignette, spotlight

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Fruit Basket

RAW File

Final File

Consider Using These Tools

- Cropping
- Dodge and Burn
- Saturation Adjustment
- Blurring
- Foreground / Background Relationship
- Transposition (flipping the image)
- Vignette and Spotlight

Foreground / Background Relationship

Before

Foreground / Background Relationship

After

Foreground / Background Relationship

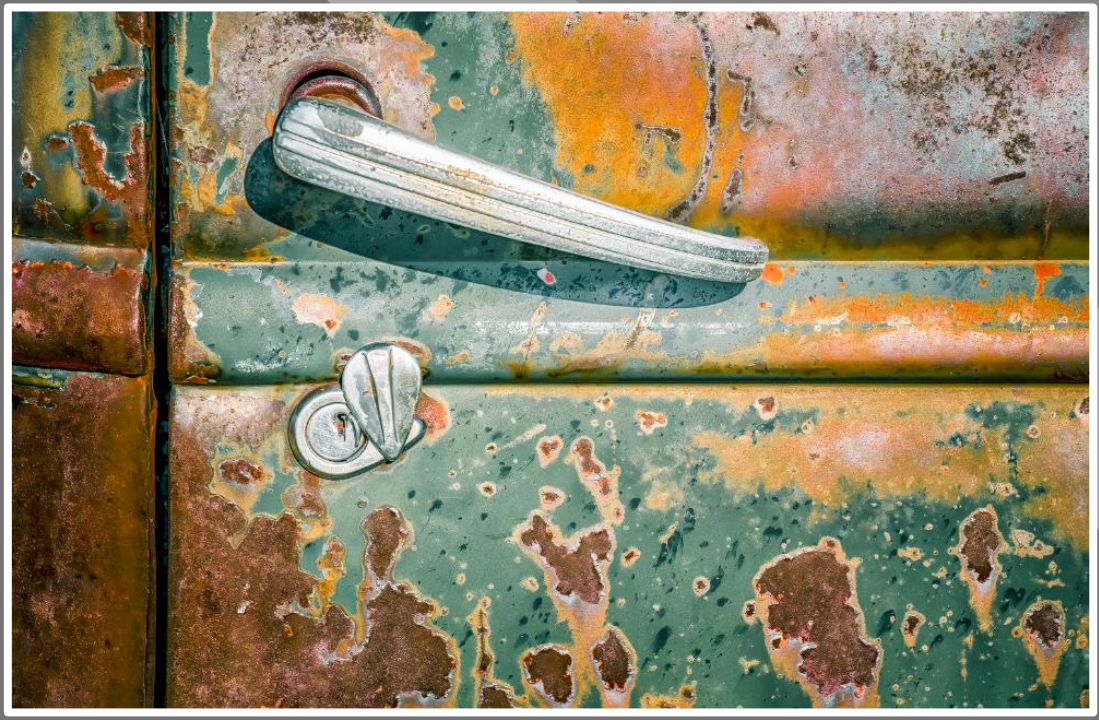
Foreground / Background Relationship

Consider Using These Tools

- Cropping
- Dodge and Burn
- Saturation Adjustment
- Blurring
- Foreground / Background Relationship
- Transposition (flipping the image)
- Vignette and Spotlight

Possible Reasons for Transposing an Image

?



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Possible Reasons for Transposing an Image

- Natural flow of energy through the image?
- Gives visual weight to the primary element
- Helps the eye land on the most important element first
- Makes the leading lines work better
- Keeps the subject's eyes in the frame (and the viewer's, too)
- Helps tell a different story (going uphill or downhill?)

Transposing the Image

Before

After

Transposing the Image

Problems:

- Facing the “wrong” direction
- Cropped too tightly on side and bottom

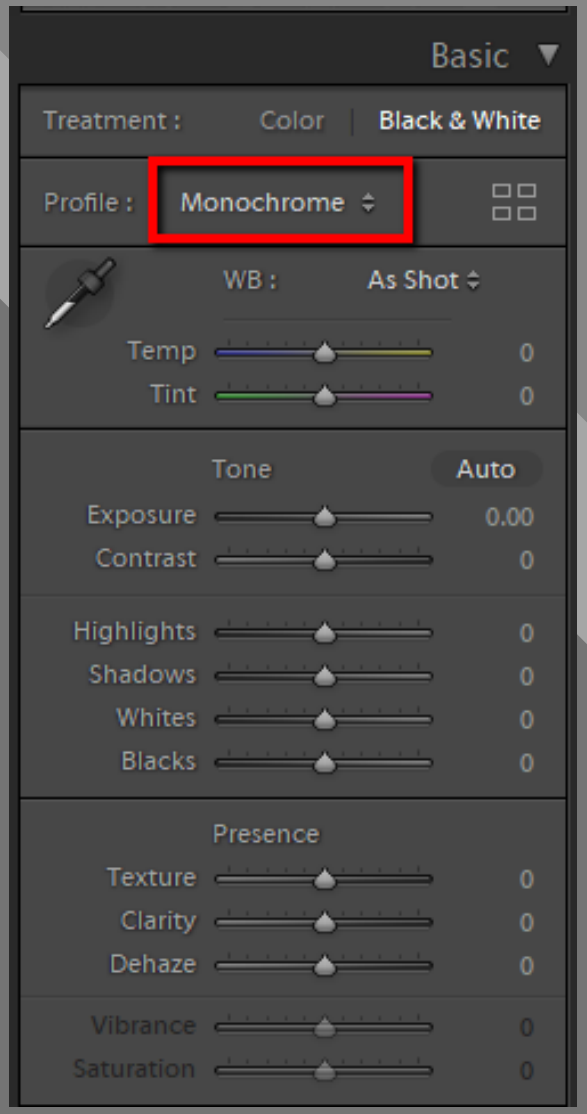
RAW File

Transposing the Image

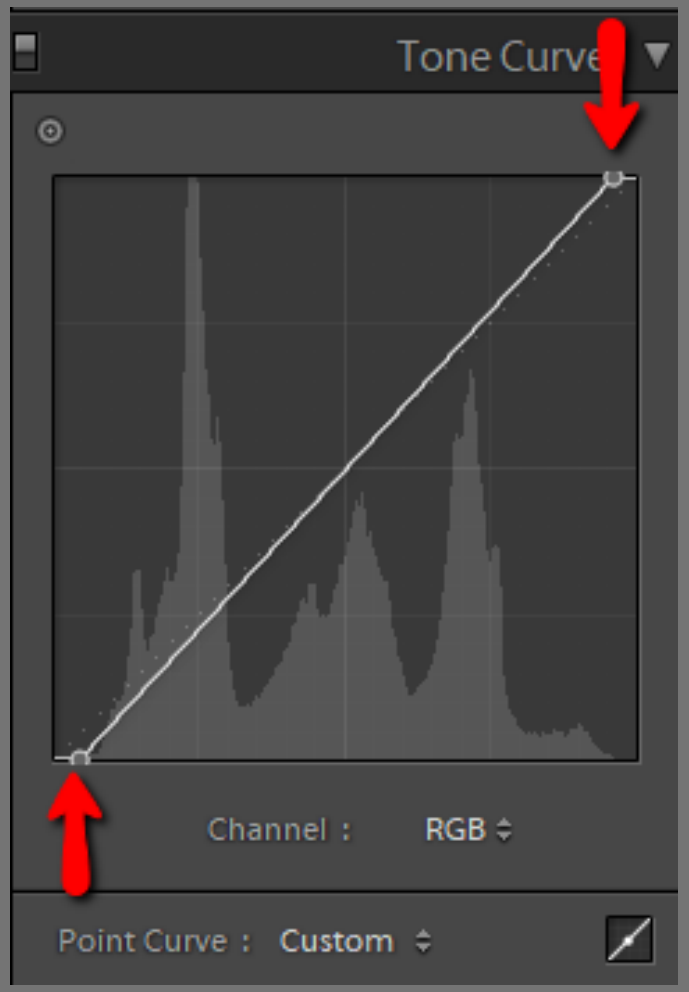
Image flipped horizontally

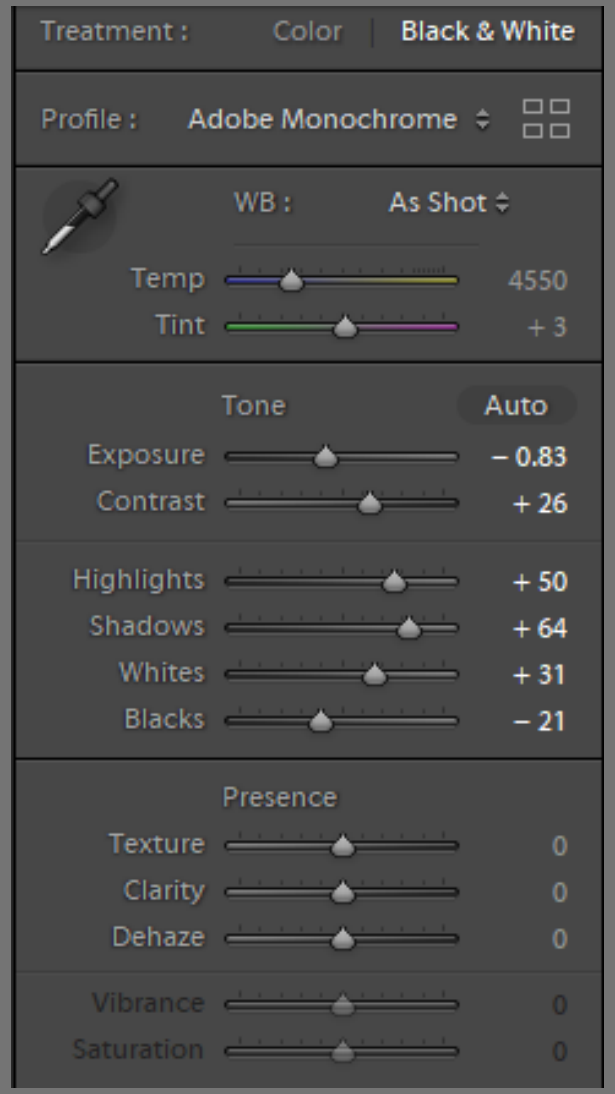
Transposing the Image

Image initially converted to monochrome



Transposing the Image





Transposing the Image

Add canvas: left, bottom

Transposing the Image

Original

Final

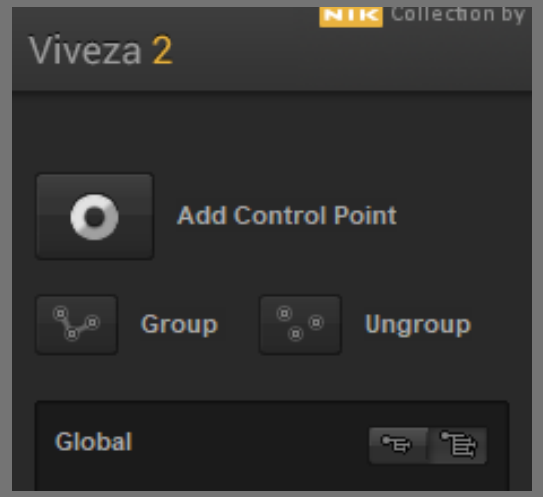
Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall

Post-production transitions to be made:

- Luminosity
- Saturation
- Detail/texture
- Color temperature

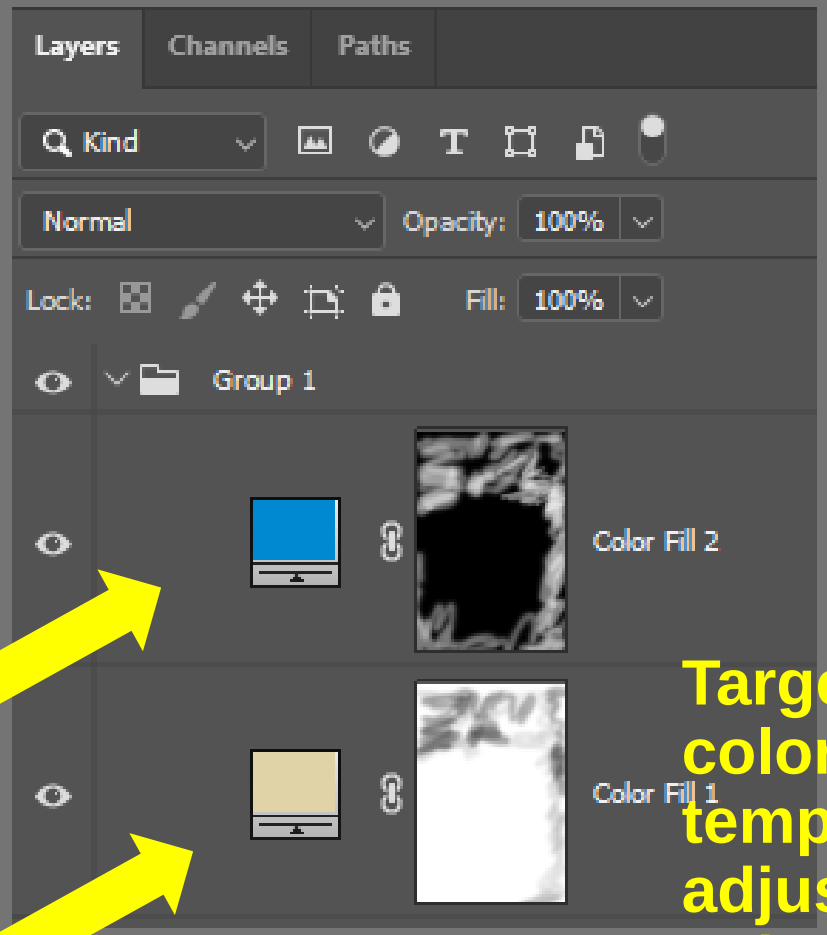
RAW File

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall

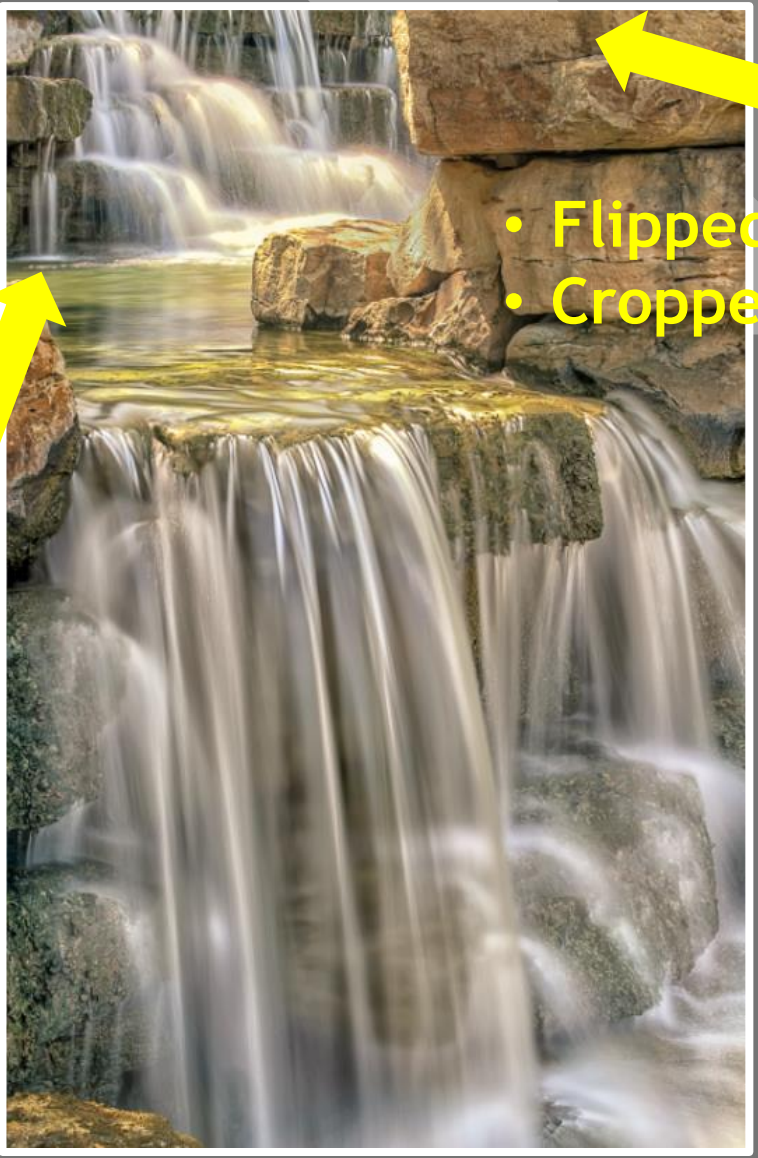


Targeted texture and contrast adjustments with Nik Viveza

Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall



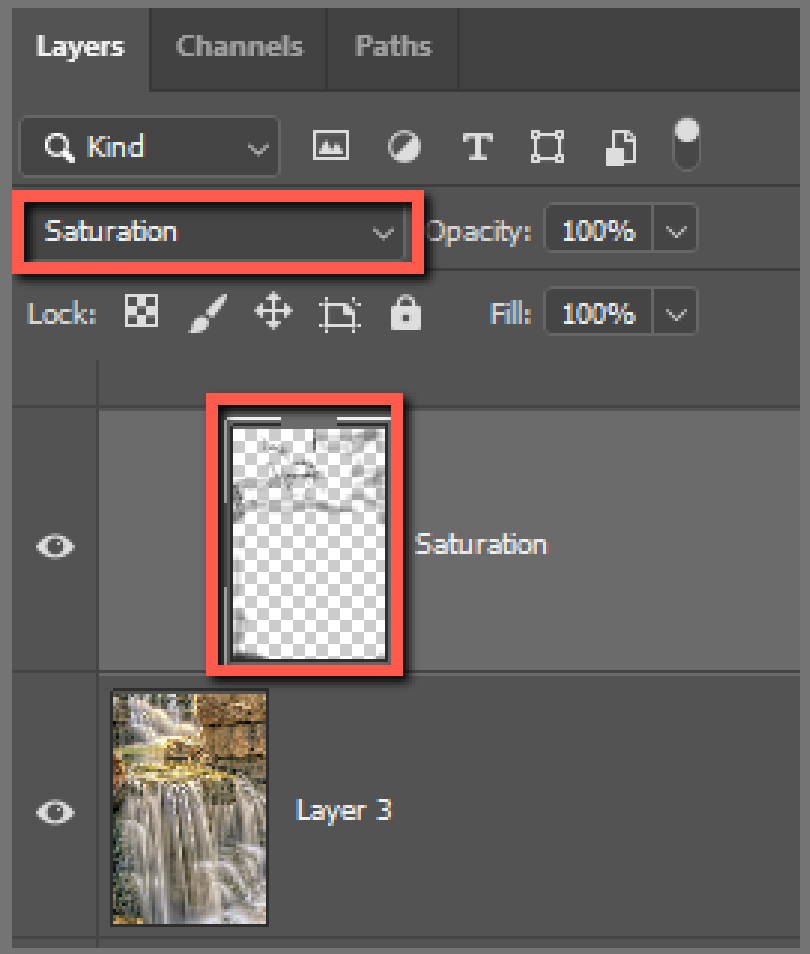
Targeted color temperature adjustments using color fill layers



- Flipped horizontally
- Cropped top and side

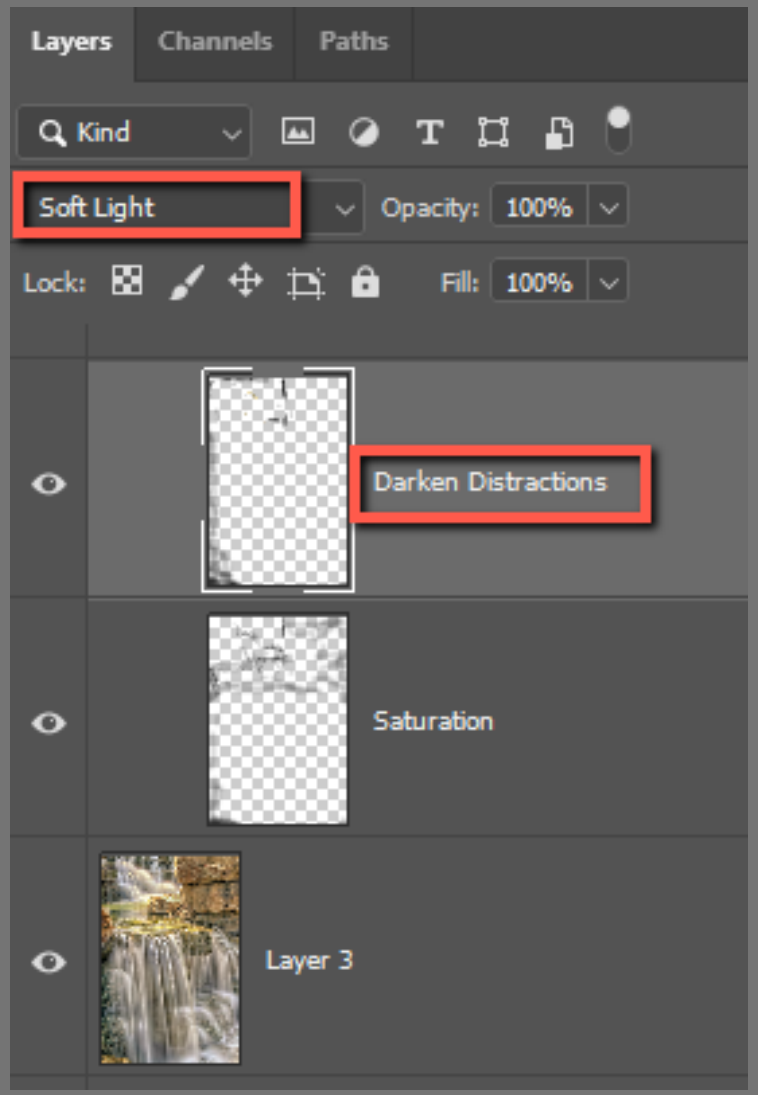
Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall

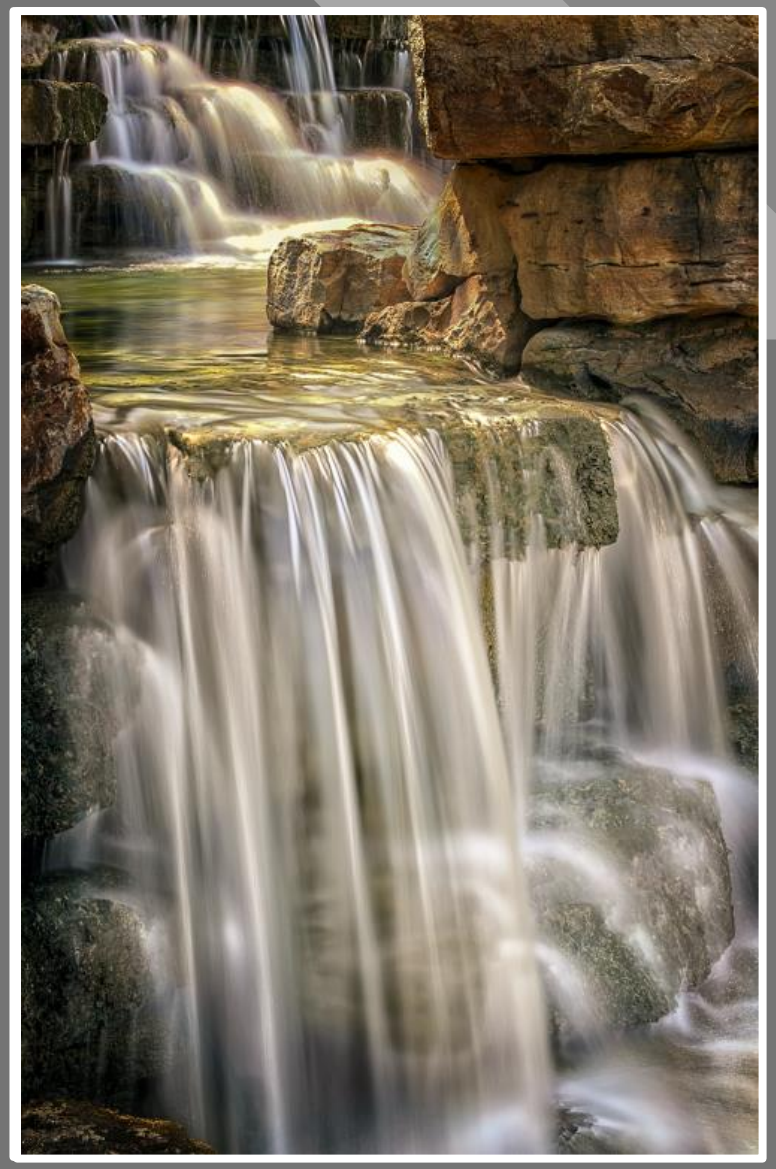
Painting out saturation



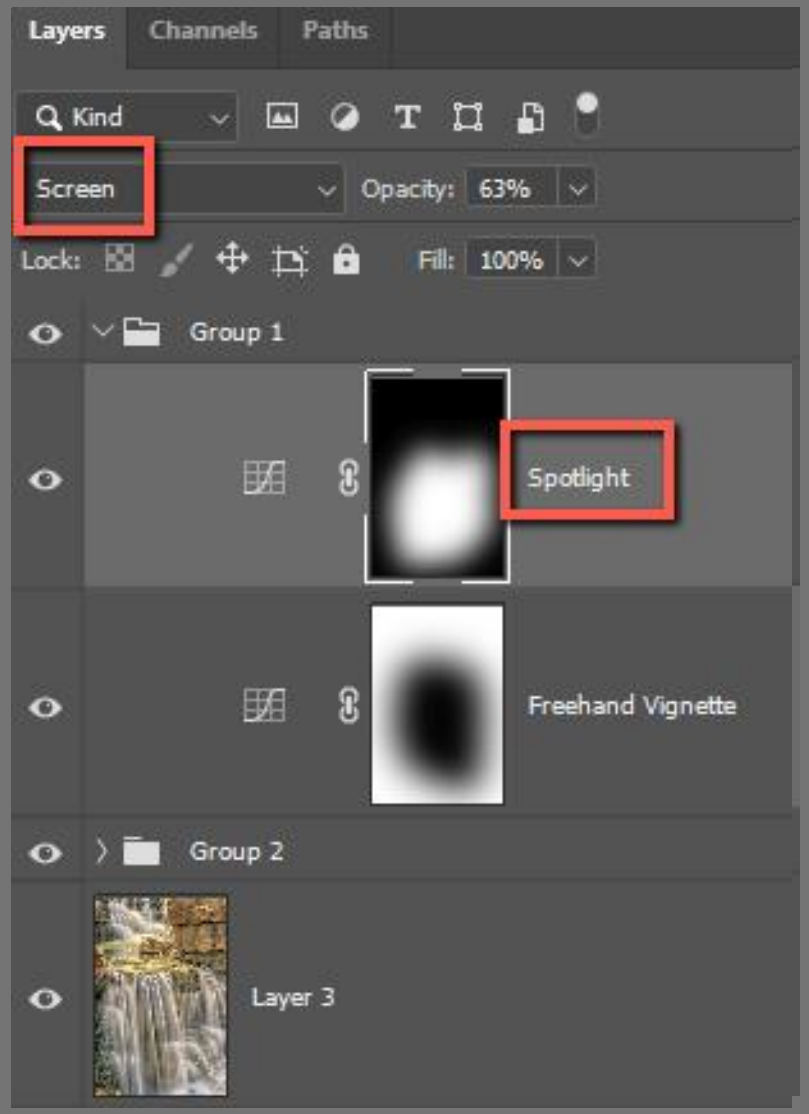
Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall

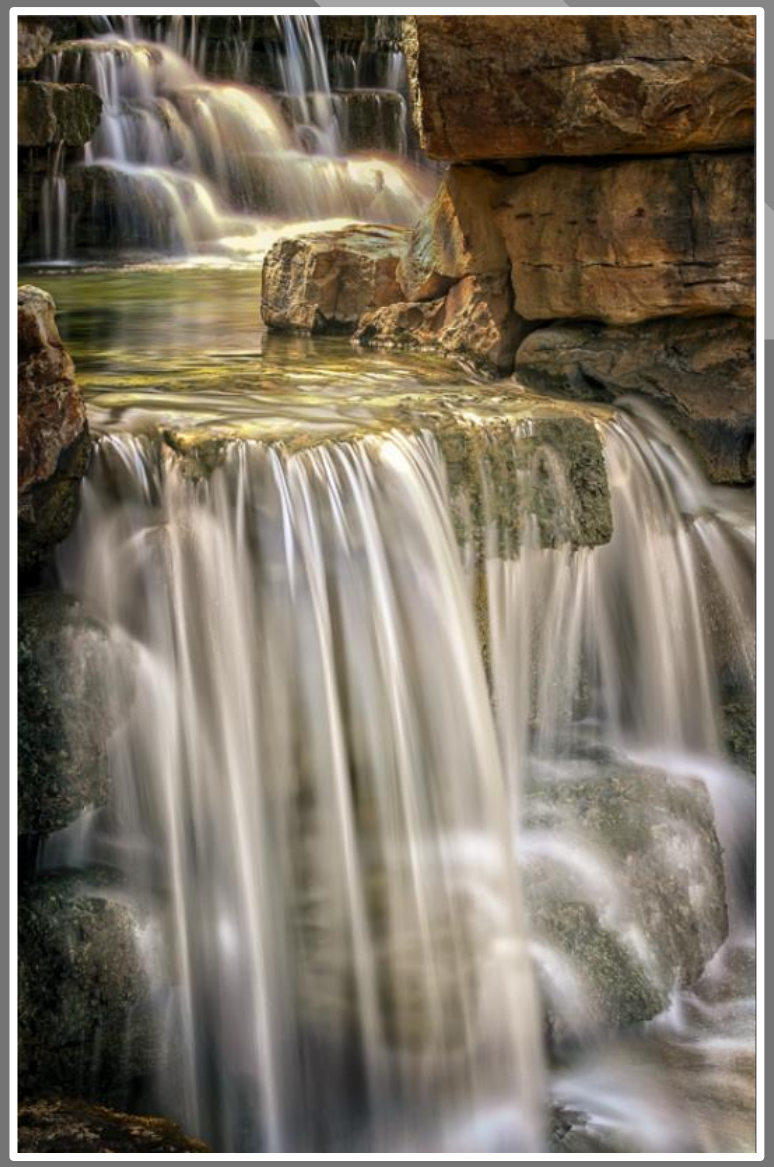
Darken distractions





Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall





Example: Multiple Transition Types—Waterfall

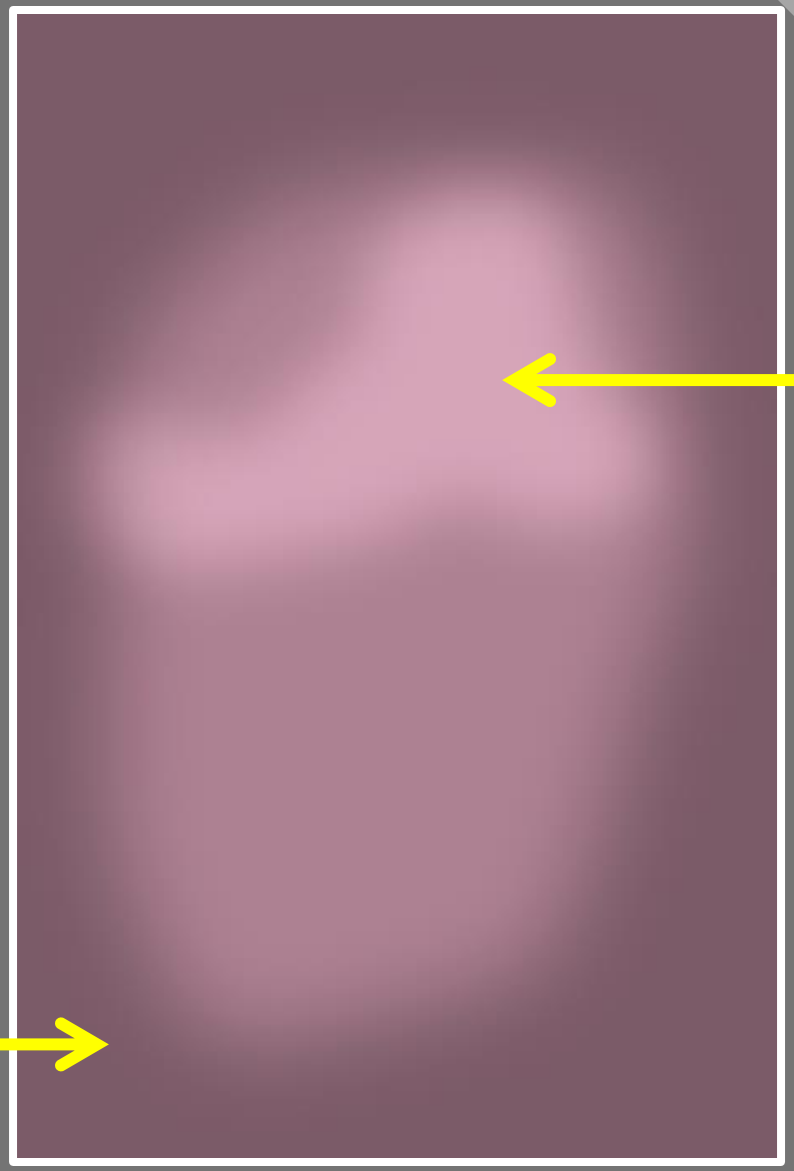
RAW File

Final Image

Consider Using These Tools

- Cropping
- Dodge and Burn
- Saturation Adjustment
- Blurring
- Foreground / Background Relationship
- Transposition (flipping the image)
- Vignette and Spotlight

Vignetting Methods



Vignetting Methods

- Freehand lasso selection (Curves layers, PS)
- Post-crop vignette tool (LR)
- Painting on blank layer (PS)
- Radial filter, customized with the Adjustment brush (LR)

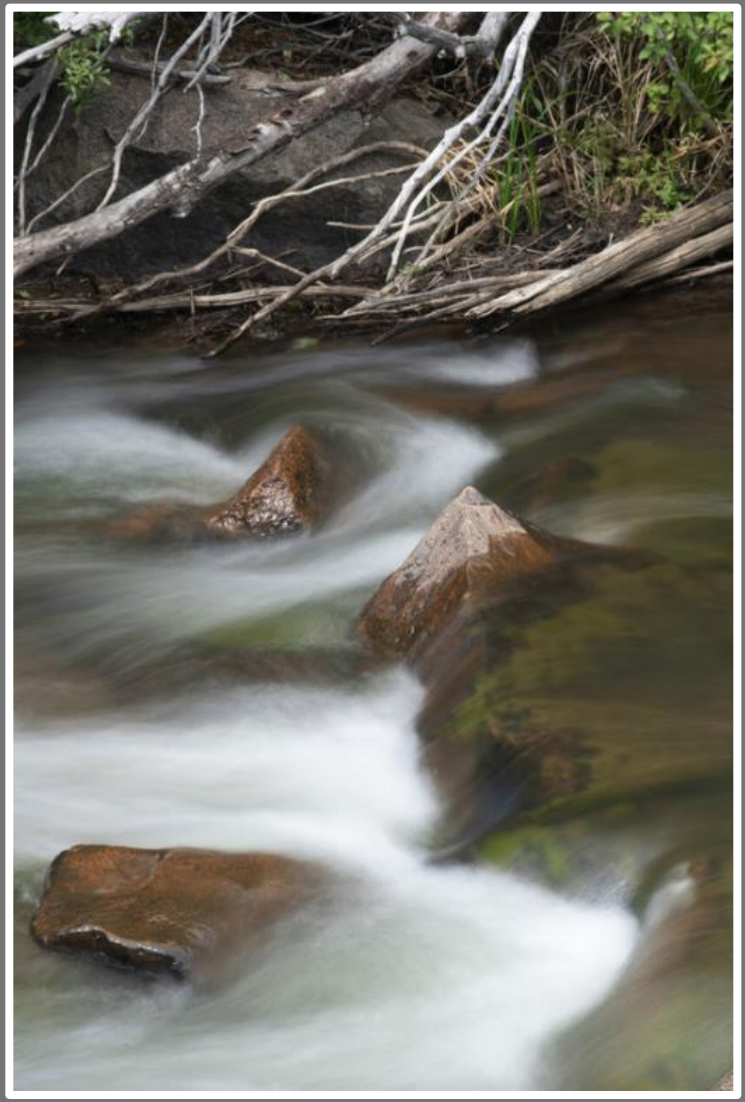
Vignette and Spotlight Example

Before Vignette
and Spotlight

After Vignette
and Spotlight

Refining Image Example

RAW File



Final File

Course Summary

Refining your image:

- Removing or minimizing distractions
- Drawing the viewer's eye by enhancing the positive elements of the image as you bring your vision to life