

2009-03-24 CCCC Fourth Tue Out_Of_Frame

Out of Frame images are those images with a frame, where parts of the image, a flower or person extend beyond the frame and the frame is covered making the subject appear to be coming out of the frame and three dimensional.

The best images for this usually are diagonal in arrangement so that one of the 'ends' can go out of frame. (For a "Pop-Up" image it may work best to have the subject in the center, or center back of the image.) Also, it is much easier if the subject has easy to mask edges and not like the one I tried with a hanging ball of butterflies with all their wings against a varied background. After about 5 minutes, I gave it up as a bad habit!

There are three basic parts to your Out of Frame image, the image, a suitable background and a frame. You can always go way beyond basic, you can have a fancy background, a really fancy frame and more than one frame and/or image, but all of the steps will be about the same.

The first step is to open your selected image in Photoshop. Double click on its name 'Background' in the Layer Pallet, and rename it to match your image. This does two things, first it now has a notable name and second, unless changed, the Background layer has many restrictions on what can be done to it. Once changed, you can treat it as a normal layer and make all kinds of adjustments.

Second step, in the Layers Pallet, click on the Copy icon and make a new layer. Drag it below your image layer and rename it Background, this will be your background that will be visible outside of the framed image. You can fill it with a single color, make a gradient or bring in a different background. To fill it with a single color, select the layer, select the Paint Bucket from the Tool Bar and then, select a color and click on the layer to Fill the layer with that color.

Third step, in the Layer Pallet, click on the Copy icon and make a new layer. Drag it above your image layer, and name it Frame. You could drag in an actual image of a real fancy frame if you'd like, but for now we will create our own.

With the Frame layer still selected, use the Rectangular Marquis Tool to mark the outside of the frame you'd like to have. Next, select Edit > Stroke and select a Width (you will have to try different widths here, for a big image, you may need 120 and for a small one, 20 may do, just try it, use History or Ctrl-Z to back up and try again) and select the color for your frame and make sure that Inside is selected.

You now have a 'flat' frame. If that is what you want, fine, if not, while the Frame is still selected, go to Edit > Transform > Distort and move the frame around until you get the effect you are after. Once there, click on the check mark or hit return to finalize your selection.

Once you have your Frame in place, it is time to work on the Image layer. Select the Image layer and use your favorite selection technique to select all of the image outside the frame that needs to “go away”. Once selection is finished, click to Add a Layer Mask to your Image layer. After you’ve created the Layer Mask, you can still go in and retouch or add/remove areas from the mask using the Brush tool and Black or White to add or remove parts of the mask.

Now that you have your image done, select your Frame layer again and add a Layer Mask to the Frame layer. (click on Add Layer Mask at the bottom of the Layer Pallet) and, selecting the Brush tool and hit D on the keyboard (to set the foreground/background colors to Black and White), set the Brush size (and Hardness) and paint over the Frame at the area of the subject where you want it to appear that the subject is passing in front of the frame. If you make a mistake, you can change to White by typing X on keyboard (X exchanges Black and White in the foreground/background colors) and fill in where you messed up.

Once the Frame is properly masked, the next step is to add a Drop Shadow to the Frame layer. Select the Frame Layer and click on Layer Style in the bottom left of the Layer Pallet. Select Drop Shadow from the pop-up menu and set the Angle (I prefer 120, but if there are noticeable shadows in the image, try to match them if it looks right), Spread, Distance and Size.

Once you get the Drop Shadow where you want it, do a Layer > Layer Style > Create Layer. This will put your Drop Shadow onto a separate layer so you can work with it easier (to mask parts of the Drop Shadow were it covers your image or other areas you don’t want ‘in shadow’.) You just need to add a Layer Mask to the Drop Shadow layer and, like the Frame Layer Mask, you will need to go in and Mask out parts of the Drop Shadow. (Some tutorials recommend doing the Drop Shadow and separating them before you Mask the Frame layer, but then you have TWO separate Masking jobs, though you’ll still need to retouch each.)

The next step is to add a Drop Shadow to the Image layer. Select the Image Layer and click on Layer Style in the bottom left of the Layer Pallet. Select Drop Shadow from the pop-up menu and set the Angle (I suggest you match the settings for the Frame Drop shadow as a start and go from there.)

Once you get the Drop Shadow where you want it, do a Layer > Layer Style > Create Layer. This will put your Image Shadow onto a separate layer so you can work with it easier (to mask parts of the Image Shadow were it covers your image or other areas you don’t want ‘in shadow’.) You just need to add a Layer Mask to the Image Shadow layer and, like the Image Layer Mask, you will need to go in and Mask out parts of the Image Shadow.

In conclusion, there are many ways to do the framing and backgrounds. I have only shown the very basic steps required to ‘get the job done’. But, now that you have the basics, you can go on, using your own creativity to add multiple frames or ‘special’ backgrounds. Some images that I’ve seen use pictures of very ornate frames and

others use totally 'created' backgrounds. I think that image selection plays a big part, as does "creativity".

Check the following for examples of how 'creative people' do "Out of Frame" images:

See the You Tube video of Classic Art that's been 'adjusted'...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p1Tp2Nhz_I&feature=related

The above You Tube video was created using images that came from Worth1000.com (which is an excellent source of all things creative from some very talented Photoshop folks!):

<http://www.worth1000.com/galleries.asp?rel=Out+of+Bounds+Art&display=photoshop&id=14300>

Notes on this and that:

Check out Olga's Gallery at: <http://www.abcgallery.com/> for all kinds of Art. The images may be too small to 'Photoshop', but you can get the name of the piece and use Google Images search engine <http://images.google.com/imghp> to find bigger copies to play with. (When you use Google this way, you can sort by image size to select only Large or Extra Large images to work with. I also used Google to find some great old frames to play with. Please be aware of copyright laws when grabbing images from the internet to 'play' with.