

Digital Collage & Painting

Donna Kamper

This is a hefty volume (±600 pages), but once I looked inside I understood. It's actually three books under one cover.

You open the book to a collection of incredibly inspirational works from over twenty artists. Here you're shown what's possible to create using the Adobe *Photoshop* and Corel *Painter* programs, both individually and in concert. The artists showcased number among the best-known and respected artists in the field of digital art (Julianna Kost, Jeremy Sutton, Katrin Eismann, etc.).

Following this incredible display of artwork, artist interviews and insights is the "meat of the matter." This is the "how to" to help you create the effects and accomplish the final results you're interested in. This section

splits its instruction between *Photoshop* and *Painter*.

Photoshop is primarily a photo-editing program, but that isn't all it does, as this book shows. The *Painter* program mimics artist's tools such as brushes, ink pens and chalk, but it can begin with a photograph.

You begin by "Painting in Photoshop," learning how to use filters, brushes and other tools to modify a photograph until it looks "painterly." Following this is the chapter "Painting in Painter." You're

introduced to the Clone function, using a photograph as your source for brush strokes and color, recreating the photograph as a painting.

The next project is a collage. In both programs, the process involves taking multiple images, either portions or entire, and combining them to create a new image. Both programs allow the use of layers, duplication, editing and the introduction of texture that, in the end, is a unique final result.

Perhaps the ultimate collage is a panorama, and that's the next subject. Using *Photoshop*, multiple photographs are stitched together to reveal the full beauty of a subject. This may be a cityscape, a street scene, or an incredible natural scene. A panorama allows all the beauty to be captured in a single image. This section walks you through the initial creation, and then details the fine adjustments of lighting and other considerations to complete your work.

A later chapter is a very good discussion of the Filters in *Photoshop*, a sometimes bewildering array with almost infinite variability. The examples and uses they're put to here really help you understand not only how they work but how they interact, which is perhaps more important.

The chapter titled "Experimentation" discusses the mixing of traditional and digital media, and encourages you to play with multiple elements of your images including the paper used.

This is a book I've thoroughly enjoyed. I've returned to it any number of times and intend to do so in the future. Quite highly recommended.

About: *Digital Collage & Painting* –

Using Photoshop and Painter to Create Fine Art

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