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Handout 11 – Actions

Actions are an easy way to apply the same thing (cropping, rotating, filters, etc.) to a large collection of images.

Actions are simply a recording of all the tools used during a period of time. The action can then be played back on a collection of images to yield the same result.

Step 1: Open the 1st Image
The first thing we need to do is open an image that will be used to create the recording. This should probably be one of the images you're going to process, but it can be any image.

Step 2: Create a new Action
Now we need to create a Photoshop Action that will hold the recording. Locate your Actions window (Windows > Actions).

What we need to do now is create a new Action using the 'Create new action' button located at the bottom of the Actions window (Page Peel Icon). First you may choose to "Create New Set" to keep your actions organized (Folder Icon).

When the new action button is clicked, a window will be displayed. From here you can set the name of the action, any shortcut keys, and a color to represent it. Shortcut keys are used to playback the action after it has been created. For instance, if you chose F2 as the key and checked the 'shift' checkbox, every time you hit shift+F2 on your keyboard, the action will be applied to your current image.

Step 3: Record the Action
As soon as the record button is clicked, the action will begin recording. At this time perform any manipulations to your image and Photoshop will record every step you do.

To finish your action, hit the stop button located on the Actions window.

Step 4: Apply the Action
This is the last step. We're now going to apply the Action we just created to a folder of images.
In Photoshop File > Automate > Batch.
In Bridge, Select your images and go to Tools > Photoshop > Batch.

In the 'Play' area, select the Action you just created.

If done through Photoshop -In the next area down, set the source as 'Folder'. Hit the choose button and select the folder where the image you'd like to process are located.

In the next area down - Destination - set it to 'Folder'. Choose a folder in which to save all your processed images. Check the 'Override Action "Save As" Commands' checkbox so the Action saves the images to the destination folder. The "File Naming" area lets you specify how output files are named if you want them to be named differently than the original.

As soon as you click 'OK', your action will begin running on each image in the source folder. When it completes, all the images will be processed and saved in your destination folder.

Painting From a Photo

Duplicate Layer.

Click on Filter>Artistic>Cutout
Slide Number of Levels ruler to 8
Slide the Edge Simplicity ruler to 4
Slide the Edge Fidelity ruler to 2
Click OK.

Click on Edit>Fade Cutout
Set Opacity to 80%.
Set Mode to Luminosity.
Click OK.

Set the foreground color in the toolbar to a gray tone (approximately 60% black) and the background color to white.

Duplicate Layer "Background copy".

On Layer "Background copy 2":
Click on Filter>Sketch>Chalk and Charcoal
Slide the Charcoal Area ruler to 6
Slide the Chalk Area ruler to 20
Slide the Stroke Pressure ruler to 1
Click OK.

Click on Filter>Brush Strokes>Spatter
Set Spray Radius to 10
Set Smoothness to 5
Click OK.

Click on Filter>Artistic>Underpainting
Keep the Brush Size at 0
Set the Texture Coverage to 20
Keep the Texture as Canvas and slide the Scaling to 100% and Relief to 4
In Light Direction choose Bottom Left.
Click OK.

Set the Current Layer's Blending Mode to Overlay in the Layers Palette.
Drop its opacity to 75%.