

## **Janice Braud's WPC PHOTOSHOP WORKSHOP HANDOUTS**

### **COLOR CORRECTION**

#### **METHOD 1. AUTO COLOR (in CS2) or AUTO SMARTFIX (in Elements)**

- Click on Auto Color (or on Auto Smart Fix in Elements)
- In CS2, if adjustment is “too much,” under Edit, choose FADE AUTO COLOR, and adjust slider as needed (only available immediately after Auto Color is executed)
- In Elements 3, if fine-tuning is needed, under Enhance, choose Adjust Smart Fix, and adjust with slider as needed

#### **METHOD 2. LEVELS WITH CHANNELS**

- Create Levels adjustment layer
- In layer dialog box, select red channel, then drag sliders to histogram endpoints. Do the same for green and blue channels. Then adjust midtone sliders if needed.

#### **METHOD 3. USING EYEDROPPERS IN CURVES (OR IN LEVELS IN ELEMENTS 3) WITH THRESHOLD LAYER**

- Choose eyedropper tool (set sample size to 3x3 – on Options bar)
- Click on adjustment layer icon and select threshold adjustment layer
- In threshold layer dialog, move slider to all the way left, then bring back to the right until darkest point of picture shows – click ok
- In CS2, choose color sampler tool (in Elements, you have to depend on memory) – click on darkest spot
- Dbl click on threshold layer and, in layer dialog, move slider to far right, then drag back under whitest area of picture is visible, click ok.
- In CS2, click on whitest spot to set sampler.
- Delete threshold layer (drag to waste basket)
- Create curves adjustment layer (or in Elements 3, create levels adjustment layer) – in dialog box, choose shadows (black point) eyedropper and click on blackest point in picture, then choose highlights (white point) eyedropper and click on whitest point in

image, then, if you can see a neutral gray area, choose midtones eyedropper and click on neutral gray area. Then click ok.

- In CS2, on Options bar, click on Clear to remove color sampler points.

Note: If multiple pictures with same color cast, open additional pictures and drag curves (or levels) layer to new pictures. Same corrections will be applied.

#### METHOD 4. FINDING NEUTRAL GRAY

- Create a new empty layer
- Under Edit, choose Fill, and in dialog box, set USE: to 50% gray, then click ok
- Change blend mode to difference
- Create threshold adjustment layer, move slider to far left, then drag back to right until black appears – this is neutral gray area of image. Then click ok.
- In CS2, choose sampler tool and click on neutral gray spot. (in Elements, you just have to remember)
- Delete threshold layer and gray layer (drag to waste basket)
- Create curves (or in Elements, levels) adjustment layer. In dialog box, choose midtones (gray) eyedropper and click on neutral gray area in image.

#### METHOD 5. HUE/SATURATION

- Create hue/saturation adjustment layer
- In dialog box, move hue slider to correct color, and then move saturation slider to left as needed
- For overly red or magenta skin tones, in hue/saturation dialog box, in Edit pop up, choose reds or magentas
- In the dialog box, pick 1<sup>st</sup> eyedropper and click on the reddest or pinkest part of face
- Then move saturation slider to left to reduce intensity (de-saturate), and if needed move hue slider to add yellow to balance skin tone.

## METHOD 6. AVERAGE BLUR

- Create duplicate layer (Ctrl-J, or drag layer to new layer icon)
- Choose Filter>Blur>Average (shows dominant color in your image)
- Type Ctrl-I to invert (gets opposite color from the one creating a color cast in your image)
- Change blend mode to COLOR, and experiment with opacity slider to fine tune.

## METHOD 7. MATCH COLOR (available in Photoshop CS2 only)

- Under Adjustments, choose MATCH COLOR
- In dialog box, click on Neutralize
- Adjust Fade slider to fine tune (also Color intensity slider if needed)