Rainbow Overlay Tutorial

Program Requirements: Photoshop CC

Instructor: Ms. Yurkovich   Course: Photography

Overlays are a staple in post-production work in photography. Here is a fun way to add in rainbows and a lens flare to your photographs using overlays. Follow the steps below and turn the photo of the boy in the forest into a magical scene with a rainbow.

Before   **After**

1. Open Photoshop by double clicking on the Photoshop icon. Open the file by going to *File > Open* and navigating to your photo, *Forest.png*. Click *Open* and your file will appear in Photoshop. Repeat the process and open the second file you will, *Rainbow_2.jpg*.
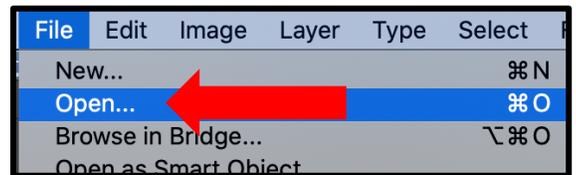
2. We need to get both images in the same file so to do this we will need to copy and paste the rainbow file on to the forest file. While in the rainbow file got to *Select > Select All.*
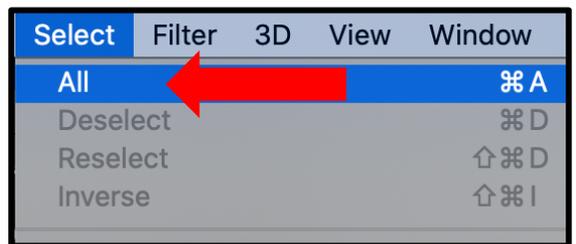
3. Once the dashed line has appeared around the entire image go to *Edit > Copy.*
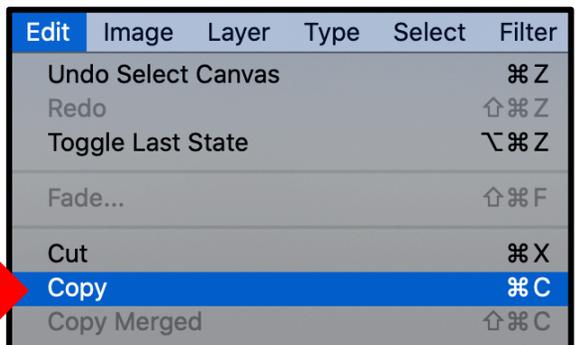
4. Switch over to the *Forest.png* file by clicking on the tab with that name on it. Now go to *Edit > Paste* and now the rainbow photo appears on top of the forest photo.
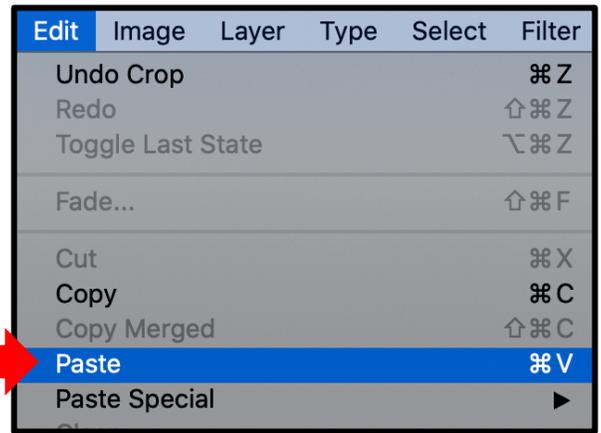
5. We will need to resize the rainbow so that it fits neatly on top of the forest photo, so go to *Edit > Free Transform.* Click on the handles that appear and resize the rainbow photo.
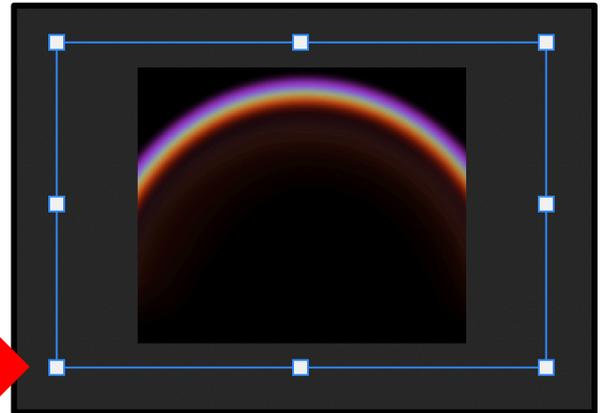
6. On the *Layers Palette* in the bottom right hand corner make sure click on the word *Normal,* this is the blending mode for the rainbow layer. When you click on *Normal* the blending mode menu will appear. Select *Screen* from the list.
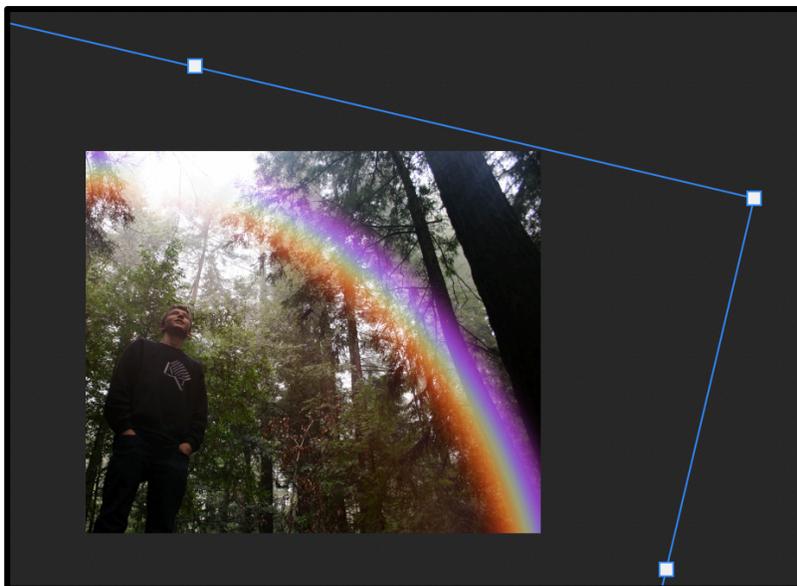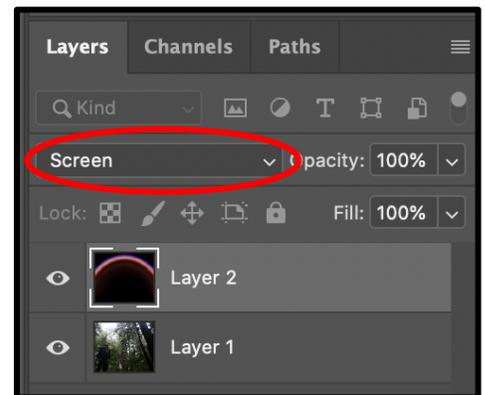
7. Now that you can see through the rainbow make any last-minute adjustments to the rainbow. Drag it, resize it, and rotate it as necessary to get in the position you want. When you are happy press *Enter or Return* on your keyboard to lock in the rainbow's position.

8. Add a mask to your rainbow layer by clicking on the icon at the bottom of the *Layers Palette* with the white rectangle with the dark circle inside of it. You will see a white rectangle pop up next to the rainbow thumbnail of *Layer 2*. Click on this white rectangle.
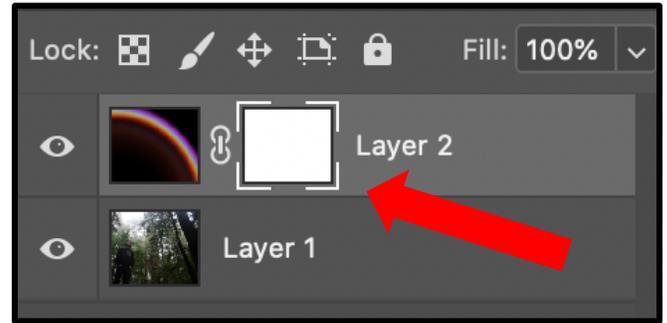
9. Click on the *Brush Tool*. Click on the *Brush Menu* at the left-hand top of the screen. Change the *Brush Size* to *1200* and *Brush Hardness* to *0%*. Look for where it says *Opacity* at the center of the *Brush Menu Bar* and change it to *46%*.
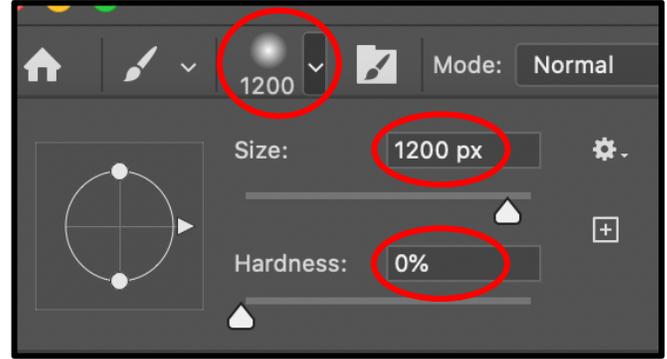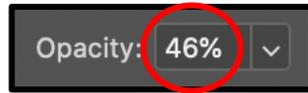
10. The default color of the brush is set to black. If your color is not black on top, click *D* on your keyboard and it will reset to the default. Now click on the areas of the rainbow that you want to be lighter or that you want to disappear entirely. This process of painting to hide an image is called masking. It's an important tool to use in Photoshop when you need to blend and merge photos.
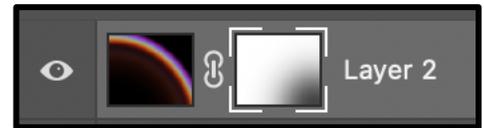
Before   **After**

11. Now that the rainbow is set we will add a lens flare to the photo to complete the look. Click on the forest layer so that it is highlighted in the *Layers Palette.* Duplicate the layer by going to *Layer > Duplicate Layer.* When prompted click *Okay.*
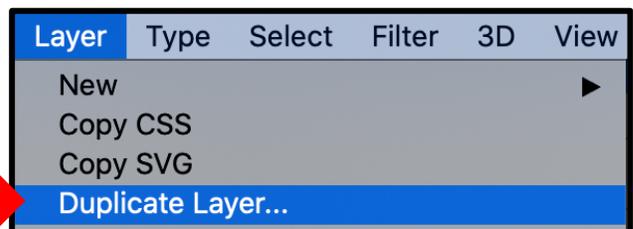
12. The new layer should now be highlighted in the ***Layers Palette.*** **(**If the new duplicate layer is not selected, click on it and select it now.) To add the Lens Flare go to ***Filters > Render > Lens Flare.***
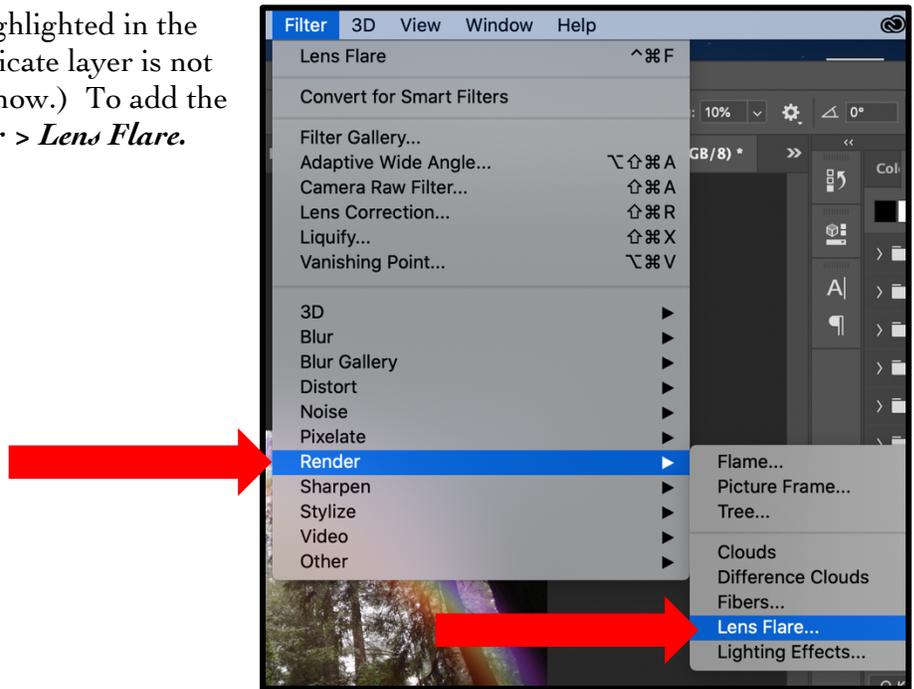
13. A new window will pop up once you select Lens Flare. Set the ***Brightness*** to ***100%*** and click on the option for ***50-300mm Zoom***. In the preview window, move the plus sign to where the light or sun is coming from in the photo (in our case the top left). This will control where the light is coming from. Once you have the light where you want it click ***Okay.***
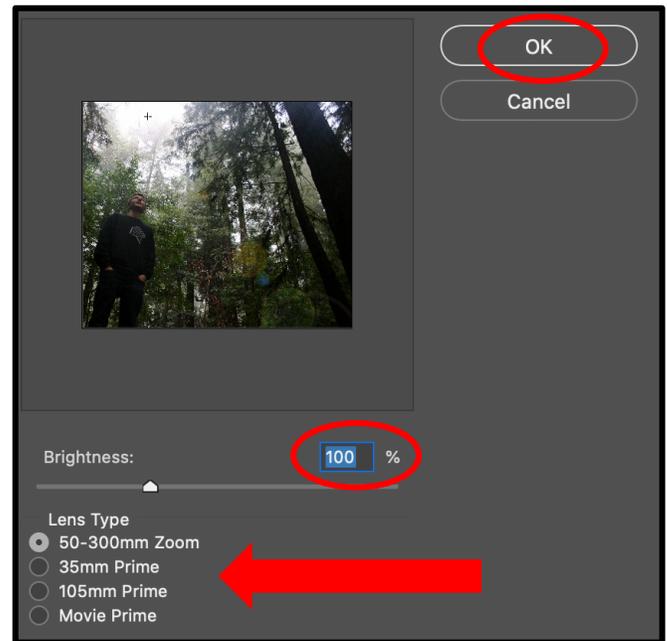
14. Now your image is finished! Time to save it and turn it in! Go to ***File > Save As***. When the window pops up asking you where you want to save your file click on ***Save on Computer***. Rename your file, so you can easily find it later and make sure you take note of the location you are saving it on. Change the ***Format*** to ***TIFF*** and then click ***Save.*** A new window will pop up asking you laye options. Don't change anything, just click ***Okay.***

15. Turn in your file on ***the Server***!

Next Steps for Your Own Rainbow Photos

Now that you've finished the example photo, time to apply your new skills to your own rainbow photos. Look through the folder of *Rainbow Overlays*. Use any of the overlays that you want on your own photos.

a. **<u>*Rainbow Overlays on Your Own Photos - Expectations*</u>**:
  i. Edit your photos in Photoshop. Crop your photos and add adjustment layers to improve your image.
  ii. When you are ready to begin adding rainbows, you will need to flatten your file first. Go to *Layer > Flatten Image* and click okay when you are prompted.
  iii. Add *rainbow overlays* to 3 photos that you have taken. You cannot reuse the example rainbow. You must use the link to the Google Drive Folder of Rainbows instead.
  iv. Use *lens flares* on at least 1 photo
  v. Turn your photos in on *the Server*.