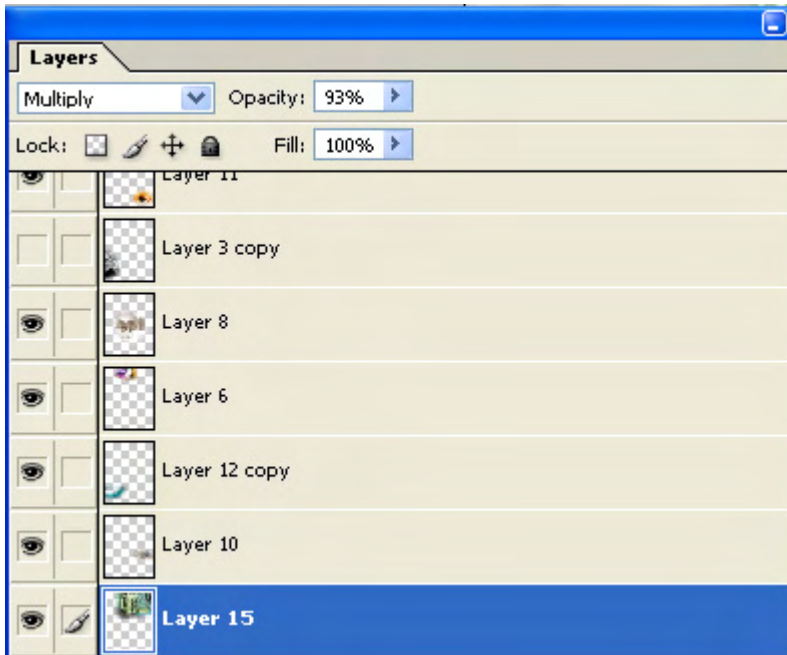


A collage is a composite of many layer of custom imagery, taken from digital photos, created images, and even royalty free graphics and textures. I have a couple of image CDs on hand which helps to enhance the collage. I started by creating an image at 72 dpi (for the web) at 8.5 by 11 inches. The background color was also set to black.

How many layers it takes to create your collage is up to you but more layers will increase the size of your psd file. The idea behind an artistic collage is to create a theme and build your collage around that. By this I mean that there will often be a larger image in the middle area, if you are doing a rectangular collage.

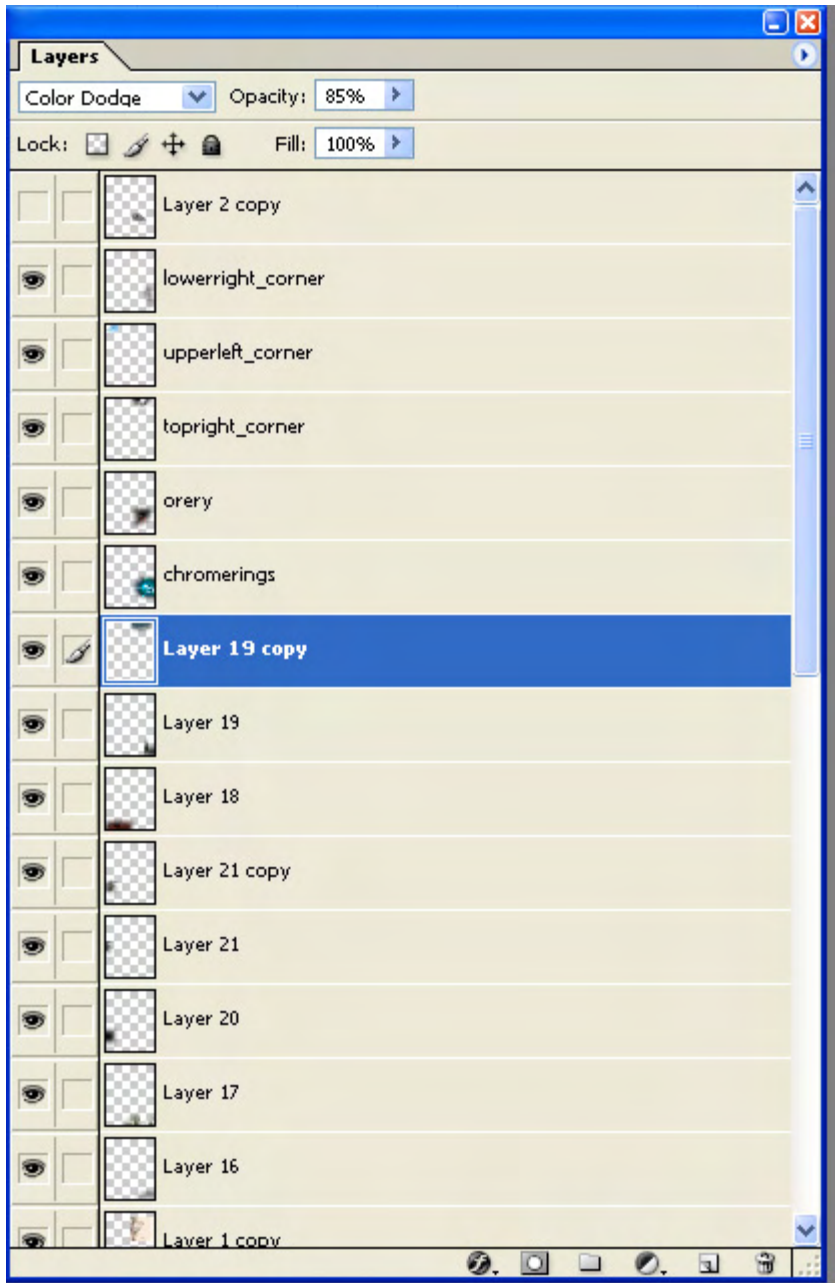


The brighter colored areas are the result of several overlapping layers, with the top most layer having been colorized and the layer set to 'MULTIPLY' mode. I colorized the images on these layers by selecting the layer and going to Hue/ Saturation under Image>Adjustment.



The Multiply layer blend mode when stack atop other layers has the effect of deepening and intensifying color. The color dodge layer blend mode will brighten, lighten and intensify color. It may be necessary to reduce the opacity of such a layer as this effect can be strong. Use the eraser tool set to an airbrush with 0% hardness with a size of 133 - 200 to soften the edges of your pasted images and resulting layer.

The collage seen above was created by copying and pasting like mad, and then erasing the edges for a softening effect.



As you can see I have a lot of layers in this collage and have a number of layers with the Color Dodge blend mode. If your color Dodge blend mode is set to 100% opacity you sometimes get too much white which will obliterate the underlying layers. As you stack your layers, you may realize that you can move the layers up and down in the layer window for different effects. Have fun, experiment and play to see what looks best. Try painting with the airbrush tool on various layers and changing opacity of these layers and switching blend modes.

You may also wish to reduce opacity of some photo layers and then apply various filters to them for a little excitement. A bit about design theory: Repeat elements through out your design, for instance if you have a particular color in one area, repeat this color in another area. Unified lines and shapes (blending two similar shapes together) will create uniformity. Move the layers around with the move tool until the areas are neatly arranged.

hope you enjoyed this tutorial and questions are welcome,

-Charlene Russ, Instructor

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