

## Animated .GIF

### DISCLAIMER:

*You are ultimately responsible for acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills to complete this task. I am available as a classroom resource, however, I am certainly not an expert in this medium. You will be required to independently seek additional resources (i.e. text and video tutorials online) if you wish to be successful. Use your peers as a resource, but do your own research and experiment so that you can be a resource to others.*

### Directions:

#### **Create an animated (stop-motion) .GIF using Adobe Photoshop.**

### Theme:

The animation should show you performing an action that is extraordinary, magical, amazing, bizarre, impossible, etc. The action should be highly unusual and reflect your unique personality.

### Steps:

- 1. Research animated .GIFs online:** Giphy.com is a great place to start. When you have finished creating your .GIF, create an account at giphy.com and upload your work. Post a link to your work just like I did in the Animated .GIF discussion thread.
- 2. Take a series of photographs of yourself, performing an action that can be repeated smoothly:** You'll need a partner for this. The lighting should remain consistent throughout, and your actions should flow smoothly together when animated. That means that your camera needs to be held steadily in place or on a tripod so that you remain in the same frame space (not forward, backward, cut off, off center, etc.). Challenge yourself, but be realistic about what is achievable in the given time. It will probably take 15-25 photos to complete a 3 second animation. Also, because you are removing the background, take your photos in front of a clear backdrop, or green screen if available.
- 3. Place the photos on separate layers of a .psd file in PS:** Placing the photos on separate layers will enable you to animate them. The final image (adjust image size) is 3" X 4" and 72ppi.
- 3. Cut out the backgrounds of your photos using PS:** Use quick selection tool for fast results, and magic wand, polygonal lasso, and eraser tools. Your background should be blank pixels, which means that you need to create a blank pixel bottom (background) layer.
- 4. Insert a new background:** Find images online (or use your own) to create an extraordinary background. Animating your background is optional, but adds a lot of interest. You might try animating your background. The background should occupy its own layer, or layers if you're animating it. Don't combine your background and foreground in the same layers.
- 5. Add foreground effects:** Find images online (or use your own) and animate them to support your concept. You can animate them as you did your image by adjusting each layer manually, or experiment with tweening, position, and opacity markers to automatically animate motion.
- 6. Save and Upload:** You will need to submit 2 versions of the file. Your process file should be a .psd that is 4" x 3" large and 72ppi. Your animated .GIF is created by selecting the "save for web" option under file. This will enable you to preview your animation, adjust looping options (set it to forever) and save as a .GIF. This file can only be viewed when opened with a web browser, or if posted on a host site like giphy.com. Post it on giphy and share the link on Flickr!