

TEST YOUR Skills

Design Beautiful Pages Mastering Masks

Test Your Skills Challenge 3

by Linda Sattgast

Color & Element Challenge

I'm using an image I took on Maui looking up at the wall of the volcano Haleakala from inside the crater. Charlie and I had backpacked into the crater the afternoon before in the unrelenting rain, which continued all night.

In the morning we awoke to find a puddle of water under and around our open air tarp, and the volcano walls were enveloped with fog. But miraculously the clouds dissipated for about half an hour—in time for us to enjoy a spectacular sunrise.



I decided to create a mask page using this photo, so here's my starting image. What do you think?

Take a good look at it and list some possible things I could do to improve this scrapbook page.

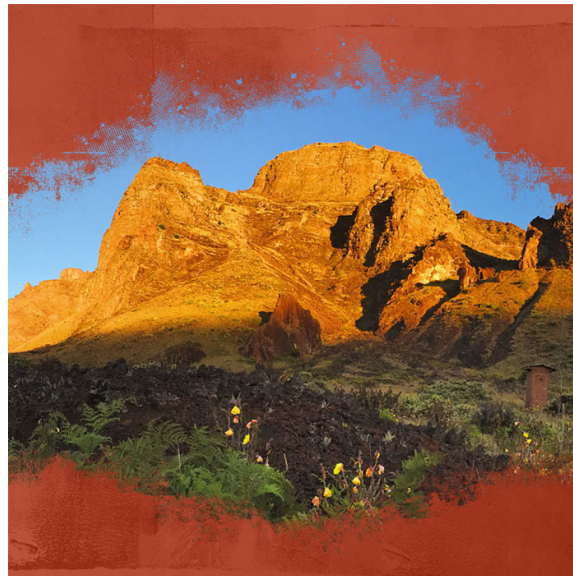


Two items that can trip us up are color and elements. Let's handle one thing at a time starting with color. In order to see the color issue better, let's get rid of the elements temporarily.

Whew! I already feel better! OK. Let's tackle the color.



Take a look at the following possibilities and think about what the background paper does to the image, which is our focal point.





1
The color of the outer frame is a perfect match for the colors of the crater. If I plan to add anything else, though, this page would end up being too busy.



2
This background has a small amount of pattern, but it isn't distracting. If I wanted to add more elements and journaling, this might be a good choice.



3
This background has a nice grungy look that matches the colors of the plants in the foreground, but to me it competes with the sky and diminishes it.



4
Here's an almost perfect match with some of the colors on the crater rim, but this paper creates a frame around the mask that attracts too much attention.



5
Again, a great match with some of the crater colors, but this creates an even heavier frame. My verdict? Just say no to attention robbers.



6
What's this?! It's the original background paper with a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer set to Colorize. What an easy solution! Let's make this look awesome...

Here, again, is the paper I chose. It isn't the only option, but it's a good one.

Ready to tackle the elements?



When I add all the elements back in, here's how my page looks. It's better than before, but it still needs some help.

As scrapbookers we feel like we **MUST** have elements. But it's possible to create a beautiful mask page that's very simple.

One thing I like to do after adding elements is hide each element or cluster and ask myself if the page looks better with it or without it. Let's try that.



The most obvious element to remove is the huge star shape. Don't get me wrong. It's a great element. It just doesn't do anything for this page. I vote NO on this element.

Let's remove another element.



The page does need a title, so I chose between removing the stamp and the flower cluster. I felt the flower cluster matched the page better than the stamp, so I removed the stamp, which didn't really contribute anything great to the page. Avoid putting elements on the page just for the sake of having elements.

The next thing I'm going to tackle is the title. I have strong feelings about type.

Warning: You May Not Agree With What I'm About To Say

I have three problems with this title.

1. The type is angled. In general I recommend that you avoid angled type. It seldom looks good. Most beginning scrapbookers angle type. Most advanced scrapbookers do not. It's just a fact of life, and I'm sorry if I've stepped on your toes with this one.
2. This is an older style calligraphy font. It would be like wearing clothes from the 60's and not knowing you look a little outdated. There are some marvelous newer FREE script fonts that are wonderful. (Check them out at your favorite font site.)
3. The type has a drop shadow. Most type shouldn't have a drop shadow. Alpha letters (created to look 3D) should have a drop shadow, but most type shouldn't.

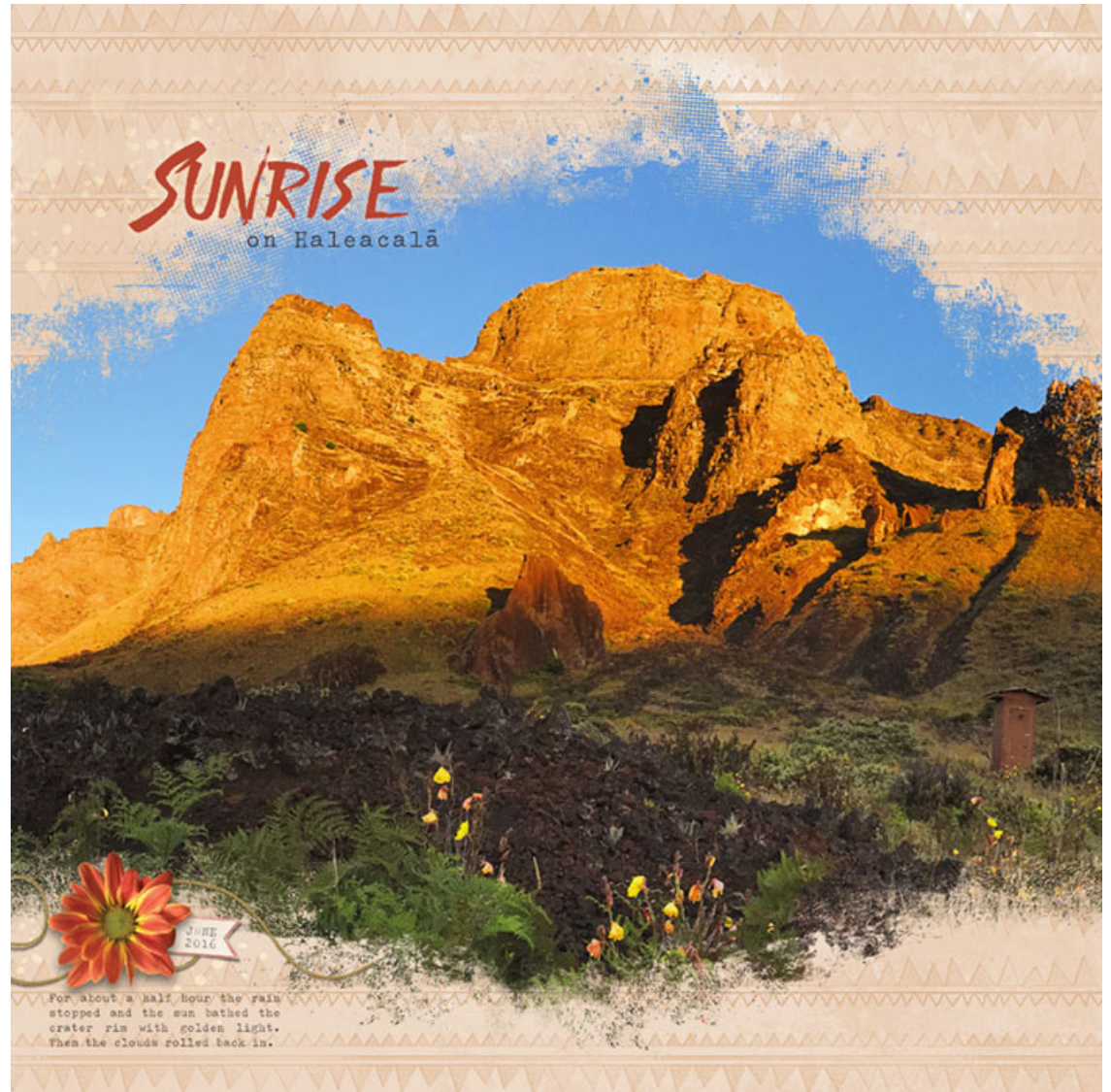
OK. Now that I've thoroughly stepped on everyone's toes let me show you a title I recommend.



Combining two different but complementary fonts is a good way to create a title. I kept the orange color in the word “Sunrise” to match the flower.

Now that I have my title, I can experiment with the elements.





Here's experiment 1.

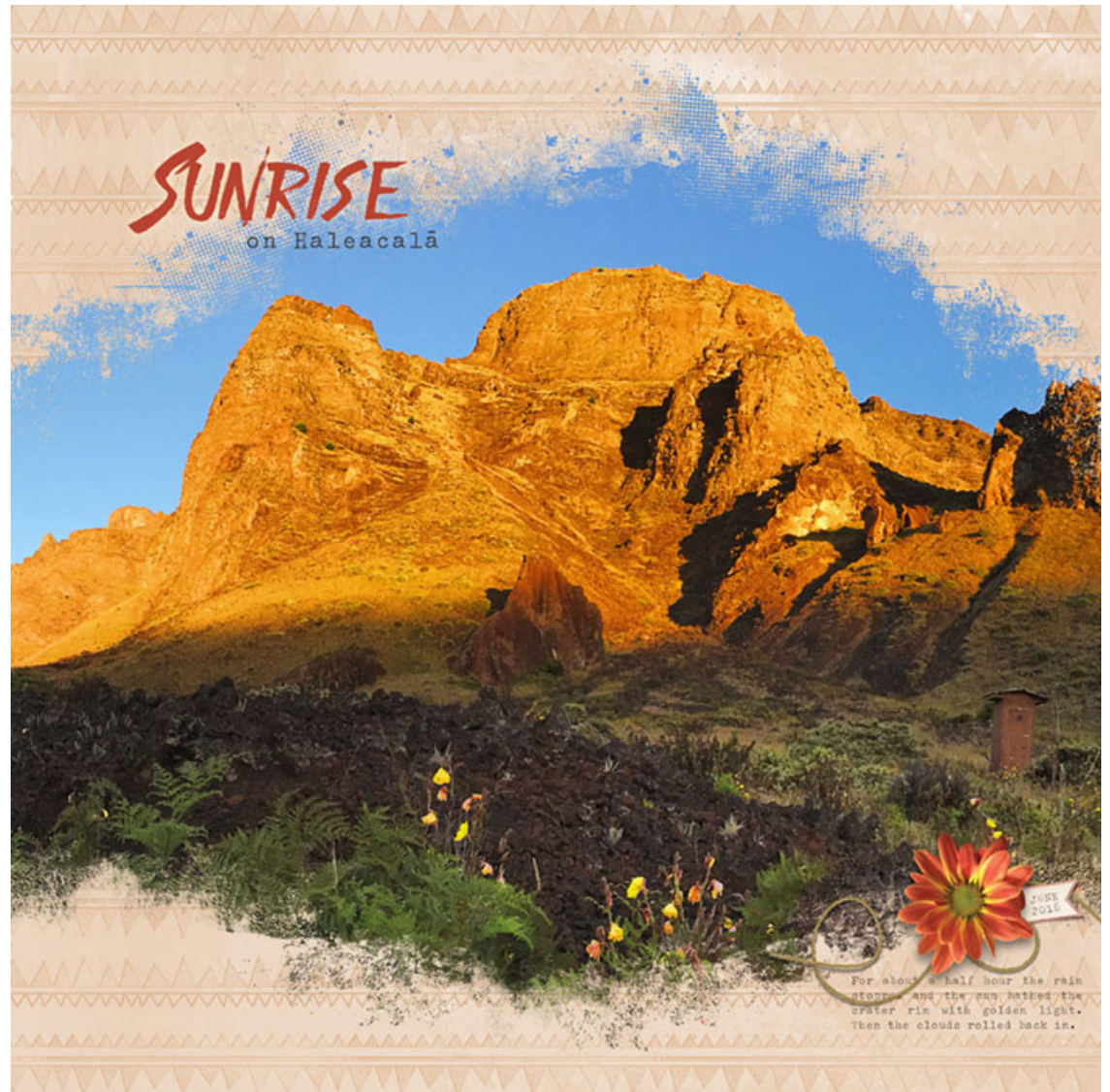
I do like the cluster, but I would like to create a better sense of balance on the page.

Here's experiment 2.

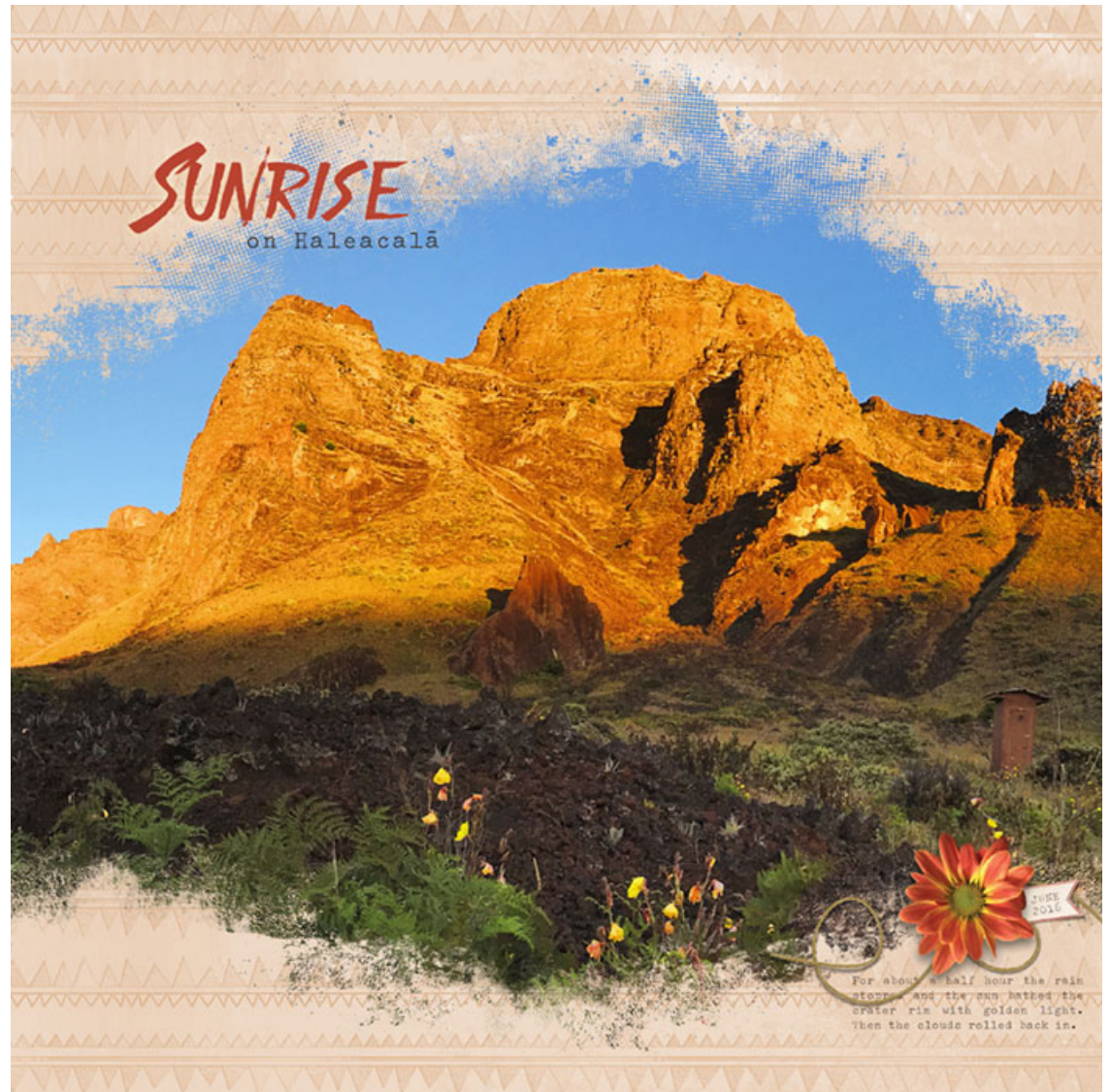
This is a very subtle difference. I added pieces of tape along the top and bottom edges of my page to form a triangular flow.



For experiment 3, what if I put the flower cluster and journaling on the right? This creates a diagonal flow.



If I add the tape and some paint scatter behind the flower cluster, here's the result.



Here's a closeup of the cluster corner. It wasn't a big deal, but I didn't want a feeling of trapped space in the area where the arrow is pointing, between the cluster and the journaling. A scattered element, like the paint spatter element, does a good job of being both an anchor and a filler for trapped space.



Here's where we started:

Credits

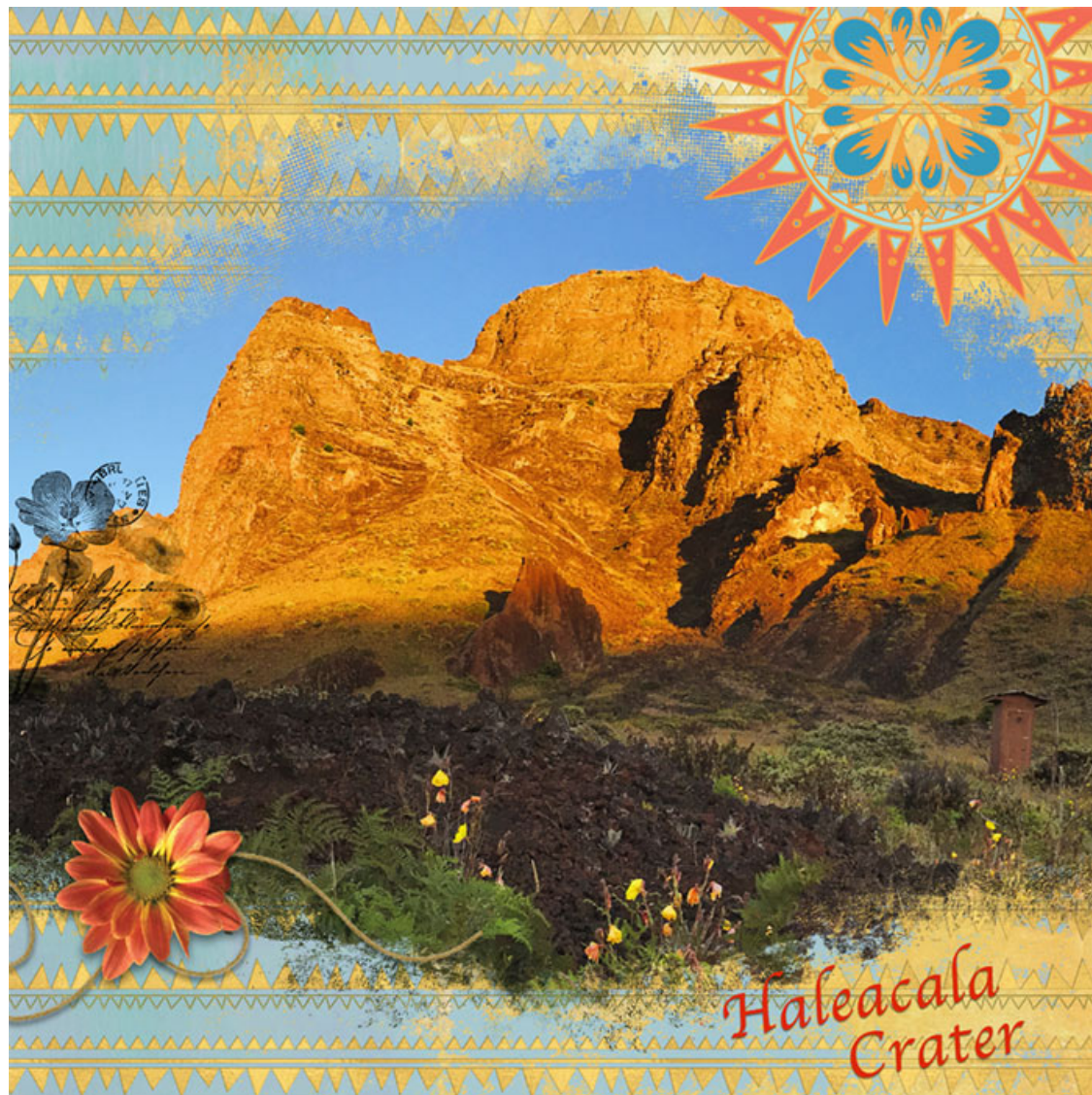
Photo by Linda Sattgast

Paper: Bright Canyon by Melissa Renfro

Elements: Bright Canyon by Melissa Renfro, Botanist Exclusive by Katie Pertiet,

Summer Passport by Syndee Nuckles,

Font: Apple Chancery



And here's where we ended up:

Credits

Photo and page by Linda Sattgast
Mask: Combo of masks from Design Beautiful Pages class
Paper: Bright Canyon by Melissa Renfro (recolored)
Elements: Bright Canyon by Melissa Renfro, Summer Passport by Syndee Nuckles, Perfect Harmony by Digilicious, Make A Wish by Kim Broedelet
Tape: Our Holiday by SMJ Designs, Autumn Flowers by Dana Zarling, Alphabet Soup by Digilicious
Fonts: Rainfall and Splendid 66

Brought to you by Linda Sattgast

