

## Artful Photos

### Lesson 4: Mixed-Media Masterpiece (Photoshop Elements)

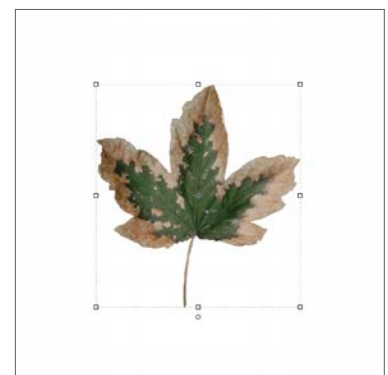
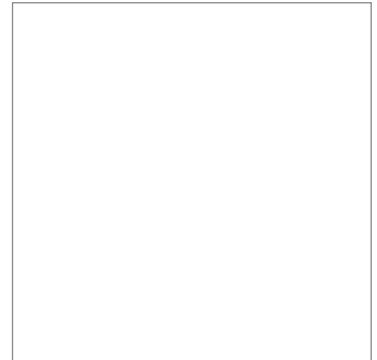
In this lesson, we'll start with a real leaf embellishment and turn it into a mixed-media masterpiece!

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### Set Up the Workspace

- Begin in Advanced/Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
  - Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
  - Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
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- Open the Leaf-SyndeeR.png (File > Open) from the ART-Class-Files.
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- Get the Move tool.
  - Holding down the Shift key, click on the leaf and drag it over to your document.
  - In the Layers panel, rename the leaf layer Original. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
  - Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the leaf layer.
  - Double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Black and white. Press Enter/Return.
  - Click on the Visibility icon of the Original leaf layer to hide it.

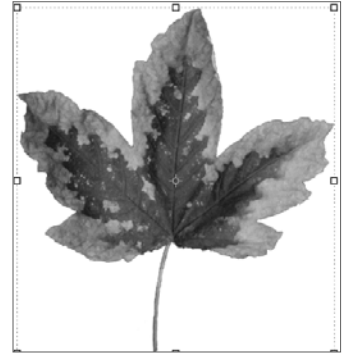


TIP: The leaf we are using in this lesson has a transparent background, but for future projects you can also use photos and images with backgrounds and follow the instructions from Lessons 1 or 2 to extract the object from the photo.

### Convert the Leaf to Black and White

The easiest method of converting an image or element to black and white is achieved using a shortcut!

- Press Shift Ctrl U (Mac: Shift Cmd U) to convert the leaf to black and white. This shortcut desaturates our image and works great on images that have noticeable tones of light, medium, and dark colors.



We can definitely see variations of tone in the leaf, but sometimes it's hard to tell if there's going to be enough contrast in an image just by looking at it.

A little trick that can help us decide if an image is suitable is to add the Posterize adjustment layer before we make any adjustments or add filters to the image.

### Add a Posterize Adjustment Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon, and choose Posterize.
- In the Adjustments panel, set Levels to 4. Click on the Clipping Mask icon at the bottom of the panel to clip the adjustment layer to the Black and white leaf layer. Close the Adjustments panel.



The leaf is missing white tones, so we'll add some white areas using the Dodge tool.

### Add White with the Dodge Tool

The Dodge tool allows us to lighten specific areas of our image without affecting hue or saturation.

- Get the Dodge tool. It's nested with the Sponge tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Range to Highlights, the Size to 80 px, and the Exposure to 14%.
- Activate the Black and white leaf layer in the Layers panel.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layer.
- Double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Dodge and Burn. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

NOTE: Because this is a destructive method, it's important to work on a copy of your layer.

NOTE: The default brush for the Dodge and Brush tools is a Soft Round brush. If a different brush is active, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the Default brushes. Please note that if you choose a new default brush, you will need to load your class brushes again.

- Zoom in by pressing Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +).
- On the document, click and drag with the brush over the areas where you want to add white. Since there seems to be highlights on the right side of the leaf, let's add some white areas there on top of the light grey, as well as a little to the leaf on the middle-left side of the leaf.

### Enhance the Black areas with the Burn Tool

The Burn tool will allow us to darken areas of the leaf.

- Get the Burn tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Range to Shadows, the Size to 80 px, and the Exposure to 14%.
- On the document, click and drag over the black areas of the leaf to expand the darker areas. You can also add black to other areas if you like. Remember that we want to have four different tones to clip our papers to.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the document to the screen.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Posterize 1 adjustment layer to hide it. And don't worry if your leaf looks funny!
- With the Dodge and Burn layer active, press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate it.
- Double-click on the name of the duplicate layer and rename it Modified. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Click on the Visibility icons of the Dodge and Burn and Black and white layers to hide them.

### Add an Unsharp Mask Adjustment

Add an adjustment to increase contrast and detail in the photo.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Enhance > Unsharp Mask. Set the Amount to 100%, the Radius to 10 Px, and the Threshold to 10 Levels. Click OK.

TIP: If you uncheck Preview in the dialog box, and then recheck it, you can see the difference the adjustment made.

- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterize 1 adjustment layer, and click on its Visibility icon to turn it back on.
- Get the Move tool.



## Merge the Layers

- With your Posterize 1 adjustment layer active, hold down the Shift key and click on the Modified leaf layer, so both layers are active.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layers.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the layers.
- Double-click on the name of the merged layer and rename it Posterized. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

## Group the Leaf Layers

- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterize 1 adjustment layer, hold down the Shift key and click on the Original leaf layer. (You should have five layers active.) Click on the Create a New Group icon to group the layers.
- Double-click on the name of the group and rename the group Leaf Master. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the Leaf Master group to hide it.

## Deconstruct the Leaf

Use the Magic Wand to select each of the four tones in the image and place them on separate layers.

- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Tolerance to 40, uncheck Sample All Layers and Contiguous. Check Anti-aliasing.
- Activate the Posterized layer in the Layers panel.
- On the document, click on a white area of the image with the Magic Wand tool to create a selection.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to cut out and place the selection on a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename the layer White. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.



- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterized layer.
- On the document, click on a light grey area of the image to create a selection.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to cut out and place the selection on a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename the layer Light. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.



- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterized layer.
- On the document, click on a medium grey area of the image to create a selection.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to cut out and place the selection on a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename the layer Medium. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.



- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterized layer.
- On the document, click on a black area of the image.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to cut out and place the selection on a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Black. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.



### Clip a Paper to the Black Layer

- Click on the Visibility icon of the Posterized layer to hide it.
- The Black layer should be the active layer.
- Get the Move tool.
- Open the Orange-Teal-steve-johnson.jpg (File > Open) from the class download.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the texture and drag it over to your document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the texture to the Black layer.
- On the document, click inside the bounding box, and move the texture around on the document if desired.



### Clip a Paper to the Medium Layer

- Activate the Medium layer in the Layers panel.
- Open the Peeling-Paper-SyndeeR.jpg (File > Open) from the class download.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the paper and drag it over to your document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the paper to the Medium layer.
- On the document, click inside the bounding box, and move the paper around on the document if desired.





## Clip a Paper to the Light Layer

- Activate the Light layer in the Layers panel.
- Open the Torn-Collage-Paper.jpg (File > Open) from the class download.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the paper and drag it over to your document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the paper to the light layer.



## Resize the Paper Layer

- On the document, click on one of the corner handles of the bounding box, and drag it inward to reduce the size of the paper.
- Click inside the bounding box and move the paper if desired. Continue to use the corner handles to resize the paper, making sure it's still big enough to cover the entire leaf.
- Click inside the bounding box, and move the paper until you are happy with how it looks.
- Click the checkmark to commit the transformation.



## Clip a Paper to the White Layer

- Activate the White layer in the Layers panel.
- Open the Yellow-Paint-Paper-SyndeeR.jpg (File > Open) from the class download.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the paper and drag it over to your document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the paper to the White layer.
- On the document, click inside the bounding box, and move the paper if desired.



## Group the Layers

- With the layer at the top of the Layers panel active, hold down the Shift key, and click on the Black layer (You should have Eight layers active).
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double-click on the name of the group and rename it Mixed-Media Leaf. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

## Add a Background Paper

- In the Layers panel, activate the Background layer.
- Open the Craft-Paper2.jpg (File > Open) from the class download or a paper from your own stash.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the paper and drag it over to your document.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Lock icon to lock the layer.
- Activate the Leaf Master group, and then click on the Create a New Layer icon. The new layer should sit under the Posterized layer.
- Double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Mask. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

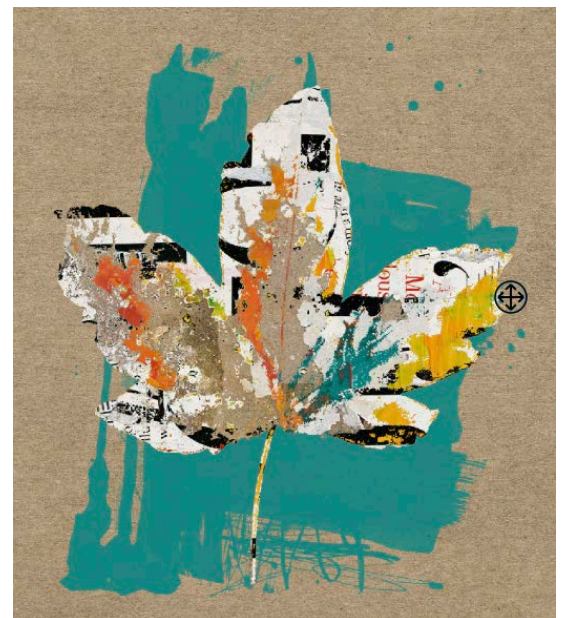


## Add Details using Brushes

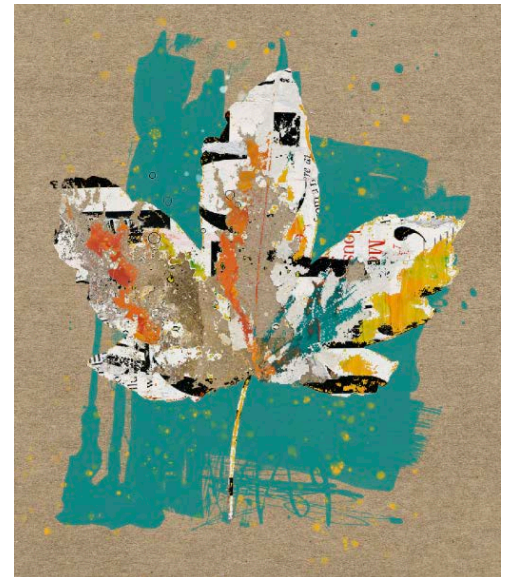
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- With the Color Picker open, hover over your leaf until you see the Eyedropper tool appear, and click on a color to sample it (I sampled a teal color, and then in the Color Picker, I chose a lighter version of that color). Click OK.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Messy Ink-Mask-SyndeeR brush from the class brushes. If you don't see the names of the brushes, click on the flyout menu and choose Large List. Leave the settings as is.

NOTE: The class brushes have built-in settings, so any adjustments made to the brush will revert back to the original settings once you choose a different brush.

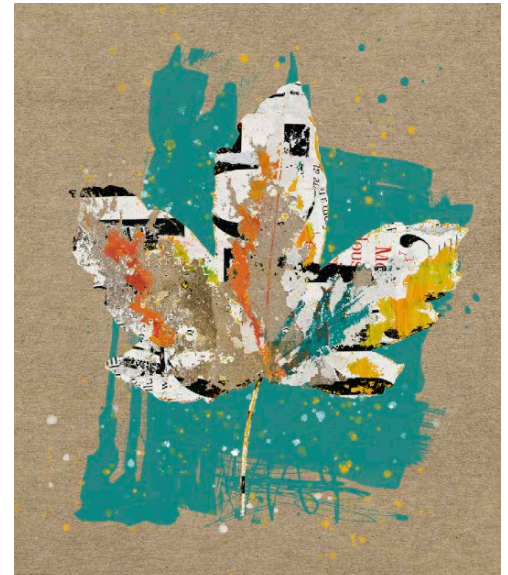
- On the document, roughly centered under the leaf, click once to stamp the brush.



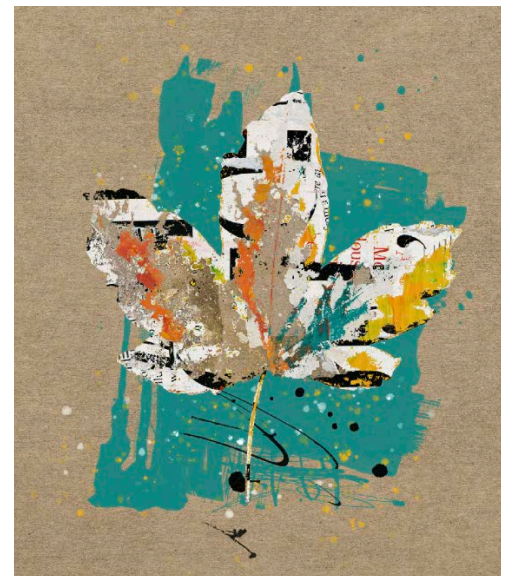
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Spatter. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- With the Color Picker open, on the document, hover over the leaf until you see the Eyedropper tool appear, and click on a color to sample it (I chose a dark yellow). In the Color Picker click OK.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Messy Ink-Spatter-SyndeeR from the class brushes. Leave the settings as is.
- On the document, click and drag with the brush under the leaf to add paint spatter.



- Press the letter X so that white is now the foreground color.
- On the document, click and drag under the leaf to add white paint spatter.

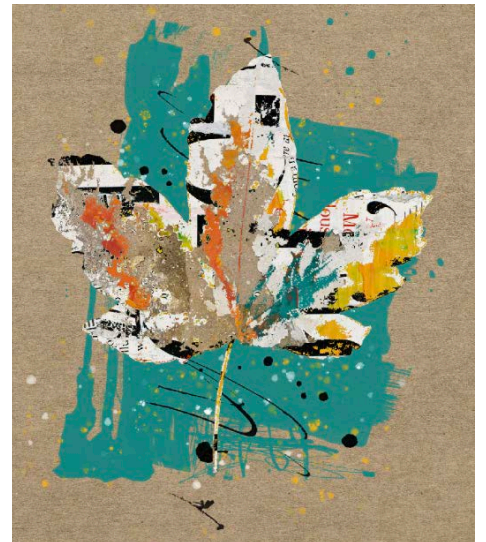


- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Messy ink. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Settings and choose the Messy Ink 3 brush from the class brushes. Leave the settings as is.
- On the document, under the leaf stem, click once to stamp the brush.





- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Settings and change the Angle to 180°. Close the Brush Settings.
- On the document, under the top of the leaf, click once to stamp the brush.

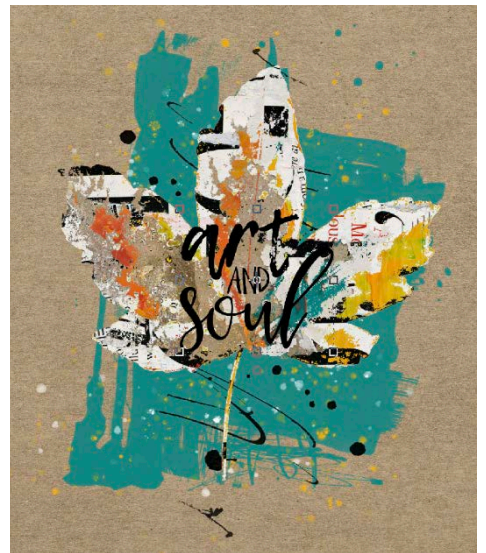


## Group the Brush Layers

- In the Layers panel, with the Messy ink layer active, hold down the Shift key and click on the Mask layer so that all your brush layers are active. Then click on the Create a New Group icon to group the layers.
- Double-click on the name of the group and rename it Brush Accents. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

## Add Wordart

- Get the Move tool.
- Activate the Mixed-Media Leaf group in the Layers panel.
- Open the Messy-Ink-ArtSoul-SyndeeR.png (File > Open) from the class files.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the Art and Soul wordart over to your leaf document.
- On the document, click on the Art and Soul wordart and move it on top of your leaf if needed.



## Add a Drop Shadow

Since we don't want to add a drop shadow to all our unassembled leaf layers, add a drop shadow to the Posterized layer.

- In the Layers panel, activate the Posterized layer and click on its Visibility icon to turn it back on.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Styles.
- In the Styles panel, click on one of the shadow styles from the Drop-Shadows-SyndeeR to apply it. If you don't see the names of the styles, open the flyout menu and choose Show Names. Close the Styles panel.



Please Note: I changed the background to the Craft-Paper.jpg from the class download.



### **Save the Document**

- Save your document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file.
- Give the file a name.
- Save the document in the class folder for this lesson. Click Save.