



Adobe

Stephen Marc Photographer

Adobe® Photoshop® CS5



Passage on the Underground Railroad

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Stephen Marc**

With contributions from Keith Griffler, Diane Miller, and Carla Williams

Historic montages

Stephen Marc is a photographer and art professor at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. Marc is well known for creating complex digital photo montages that tell the story of African American history and culture. His recent research project and exhibition, *Passage on the Underground Railroad*, uses family snapshots, photographs of historic sites and documents, and 19th and 20th century representations of people of African descent to offer a unique viewpoint on people, places, and events that make up African American history. Marc's research project is a registered

Network to Freedom program with the National Park Service, and his work was partially sponsored by Olympus Imaging America Inc.

Central to Marc's work is his expertise in creating photographic composites using Adobe Photoshop software. The stories Marc tells unfold in layers of detail carefully aligned, juxtaposed against each other, and placed within a relevant landscape. For Marc, Adobe Photoshop CS5 software includes new features that offer him new creative inspiration. "The significance of the Adobe Photoshop CS5 release is right behind the introduction of layers in how it will impact my work," he says.





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By Stephen Marc

Maintaining photographic illusion with Adobe Photoshop CS5

Marc quickly recognized how new features in Photoshop CS5 software would help him realize his ideas. "Seeing the new capabilities of Adobe Photoshop CS5 software had me immediately thinking about what I can do with them," he says. "New features like Puppet Warp and Content-Aware Fill make things that are difficult for me easy, and things that were impossible possible!"

Puppet Warp helps Marc bring characters in his artwork to life. "Using Puppet Warp in Adobe Photoshop CS5, I can move people's limbs and pivot them at the joints, which I could never do before," says Marc. "Being able to add a gesture or interaction to my artwork is incredible."

Marc's image compositing typically involves stitching landscapes together to create a background, which is both time and detail intensive. "Content-Aware Fill in Adobe Photoshop CS5 helps me create illusions that are smoother and more believable," says Marc. "It changes my thinking process and enables me to try things I might not otherwise have tried."

Adobe's inclusion of specific productivity enhancements in Photoshop CS5 inspired by customer feedback also impresses Marc. One feature in particular has him singing Adobe's praises. "I'm always working in layers and the ability to adjust the opacity of multiple selected layers in Adobe Photoshop CS5 is absolutely wonderful," says Marc.



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