Introduction

Photoshop CS3 is the latest and greatest version of a program that has set the standard for image manipulation since 1987. With this release, Photoshop now comes in two versions: Standard and Premium. Photoshop Standard is the image-editing powerhouse photographers and artists have always loved, with new features such as live filters, faster performance, a rotatable canvas, improved palette management, unified color correction, and more. Meanwhile, for users in specialized industries such as research science, Photoshop Premium has complex, exciting new features that most people don't need, including tools for image analysis, measurement and counting abilities, rotoscoping (painting on film or video), 32-bit painting, export to 3D and CAD formats, and database connectivity.

In this book, we'll look primarily at what Photoshop Standard CS3 has to offer. If you've used an earlier version of Photoshop, you'll be amazed at how much more powerful this one is. If this is your first experience with Photoshop, you'll be blown away. It's that good! The big surprise for first-time users is that it's really not as difficult to work with as it looks. If you have used any other Adobe software, the Photoshop interface will be immediately familiar to you. If this is your first step into creating digital graphics, you'll find the going easier if you work on the hours of this book one at a time and don't skip the activities or exercises.

If you're interested in learning more about the powerful capabilities in Photoshop Premium, turn to Appendix B, "A Quick Walk on the Extended Side," for a rundown on its features. You'll be amazed to learn that Photoshop can count objects within an image, for example!

Please be aware that this book was written using beta versions of the software. This means that some of the figures might be slightly different from what you see on your screen when you're using the final, commercially released version of Photoshop CS3. Nevertheless, every possible effort has been made to keep the book as accurate as possible.

There's honestly no way to become an overnight expert, be it in Photoshop or anything else, but *Sams Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop CS3 in 24 Hours* will get you up and running in 24 hours or less. It's divided into 24 one-hour lessons, rather than chapters. Each lesson should take you about an hour to complete. You might need more time to finish some lessons, and less time for others. Please don't try to do it all in one 24-hour day, even if you could. The best way to learn is to take a little time between the lesson sessions to try out what you've learned. You'll want to simply poke around in Photoshop, so that you can see what's on the menus and what happens when you click here and there.

Here's one for you to start with: Open the About Photoshop window and wait for a minute. You'll see it start to scroll through the list of all the people who worked on the program. Watch carefully for the very last name on the list. It's a pleasant surprise.

Ready? Let's get to work.

Downloading the Book's Source Images

I've provided a few of the source images for the book's exercises on the Sams website dedicated to this book. To download the images, point your web browser to `www.samspublishing.com`, and type the book's ISBN: 0672329352. (Note: Don't use any hyphens.)

After the main book page has loaded, click the Downloads link to get to the files.

Please be aware that all images are protected by copyright and cannot be used for any purpose other than to work on the exercises.

Conventions Used in This Book

This book uses the following conventions:

- ▶ Menu choices are shown with the name of the menu followed by an angle bracket and then the name of the submenu: File>New.

- ▶ Shortcut key combinations are shown like this:

  For the Macintosh, hold down the Command key and press the indicated letter: Cmd-X.

  For Windows, hold down the Control key and press the indicated letter: Ctrl+X.

- ▶ Text that you should type is shown in monospaced type: `myfilename`.

- ▶ Filenames and URLS are shown in monospaced type: `mypicture.jpg`.

This book also presents information in the following sidebars:

By the Way

By the Way **By the Way** presents interesting information related to the discussion.

Did You Know?

Did You Know? offers advice or shows you an easier way to do something.

Did you Know?

Watch Out!

Watch Out! alerts you to a possible problem, and gives you advice on how to avoid it.

Watch Out!