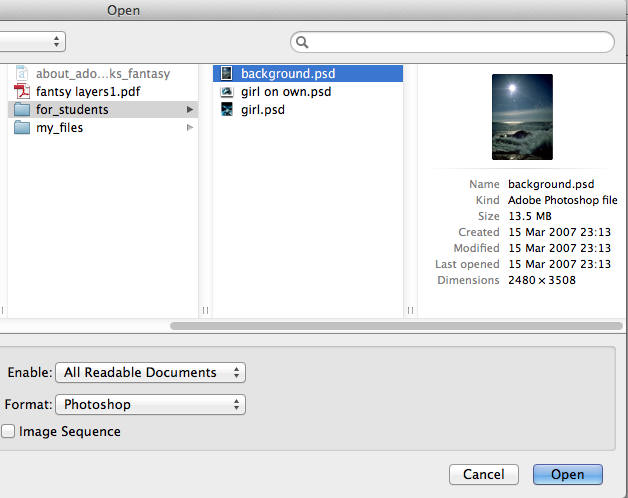
A Basic Introduction Photoshop Montages using Layer Masks

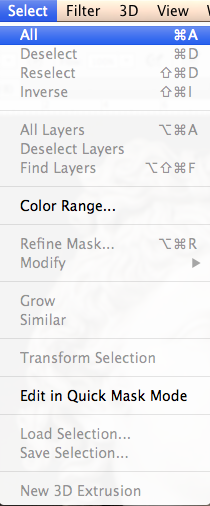
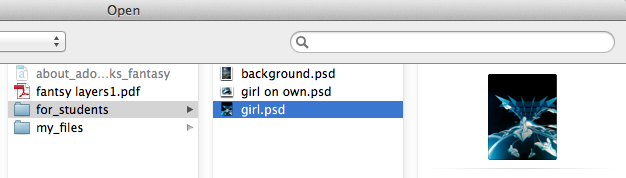
Techniques used

* Basic Layer Masks
* Basic Layer Blending Modes

**Part 1Building the Structure**

1. File open the document   
 background.psd

2. GO > File open > statue\_to\_use.jpg

3. Select the entire image GO > Select all

4. You will now see a selection around the image than is called  
 running ants, they look like little flashing dots

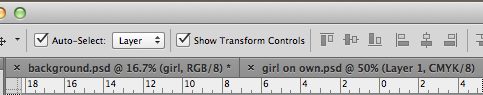


5. Copy the image

Go > Edit Copy or cmd C

6. Navigate to the new image you opened earlier

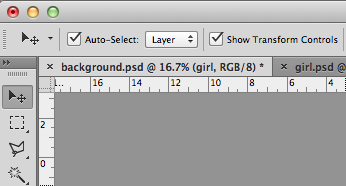
You will find this by looking for the tab showing Unentitled document on your window bar



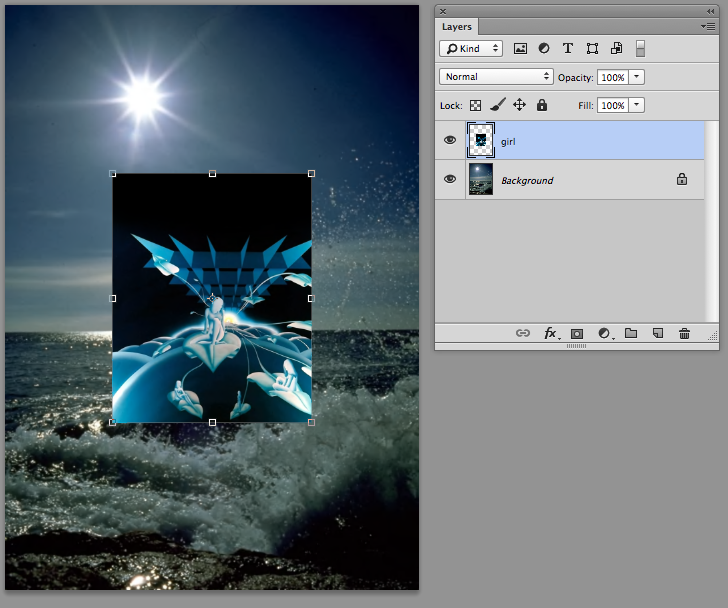
7. Paste the image

Go > Edit Paste or cmd V

8. Make sure transform controls are selected using the move tool  
 follow step 9



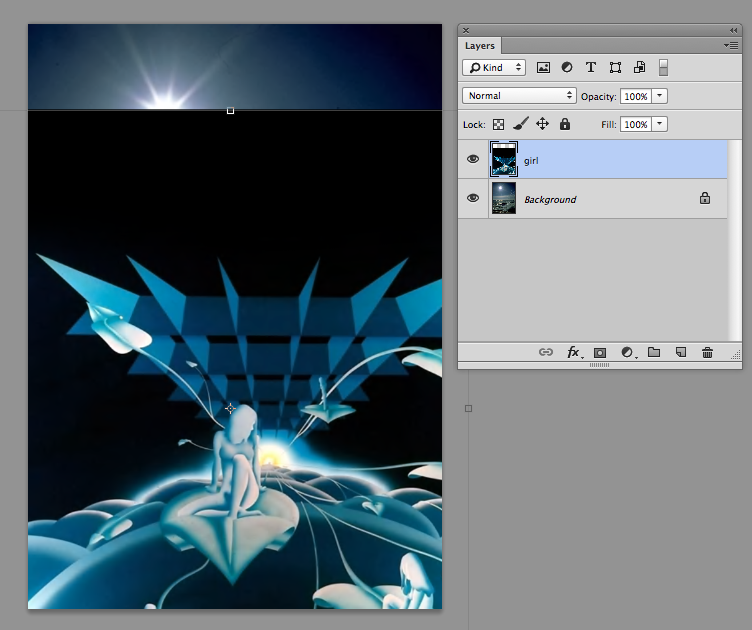
10. Transform the girl layer so it mostly covers the background  
 layer

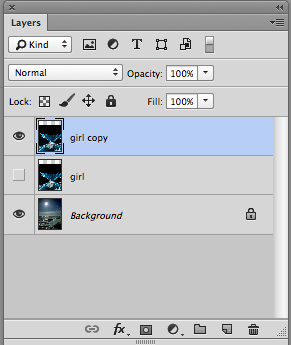


Name the your new layer girl

Click and drag the transform handles to resize the image to fit the size of the document maintaining aspect ratio

11. Double click to apply the transformation





12. KEEPING A COPY OF A LAYER SAFE

Select the layer girl

Copy this layer by dragging it  
 down to the new layer icon

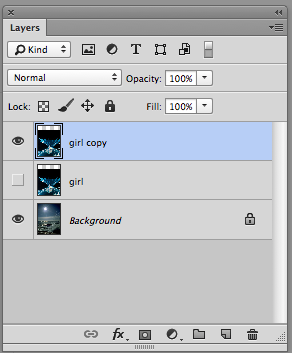
ABOVE THIS LAYER YOU NOW GET A NEW LAYER CALLED GIRL COPY

13. Turn of the layer visibility for the   
 layer statue it is not needed yet,  
 that’s the eye

**Part 2 Using None Destructive Technique Masks**

A layer mask is something that you apply to a given layer to control the transparency of that layer. Where **layer opacity** controls the transparency of the entire layer at once, a **mask** gives you more precise controls over very specific areas. If you want the entire layer to be at 30%, you would lower the opacity, if you want just the left side of a layer to be at 30%, you would use a mask.

**14. RECAP  
 Name and move your  
 layers as shown if they have moved**



girl copy

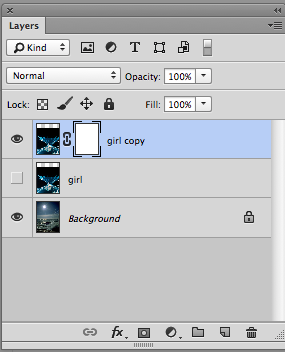
Is at the top

girl

Is in the middle visibility is turned of

background

Is at the bottom and the layer

15.Click on the icon at   
 the bottom of the layer  
 panel called add layer  
 mask

There now is a separate window next to the layer window showing the fire

16. Press D on the  
 keyboard to make the

foreground and  
 background colour

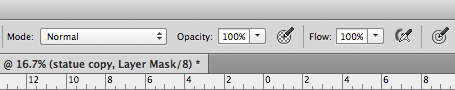
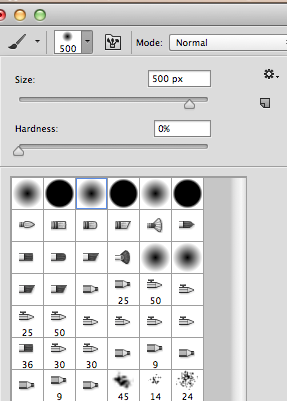
default to black and

white



Click the small rounded arrow to reverse the colours arrow and make sure foreground is set to black and background is set to white

17. Select the brush tool and roughly follow the setting below





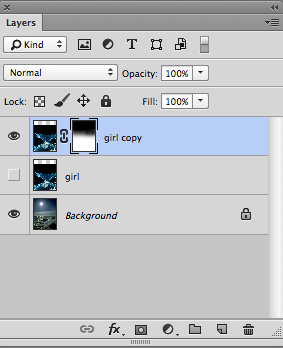
Soft Brush size 1000 px

Opacity 40 %

**18. Using a Mask**

With the brush selected as shown gently brush over the darkest part of the image, you will see black appearing on your layer mask window

When brushing with black selected you are masking out the layer you are applying the brush too

You are applying transparency to your layer

BUT in a none destructive way

Try now switching the colours in your tool panel to Black

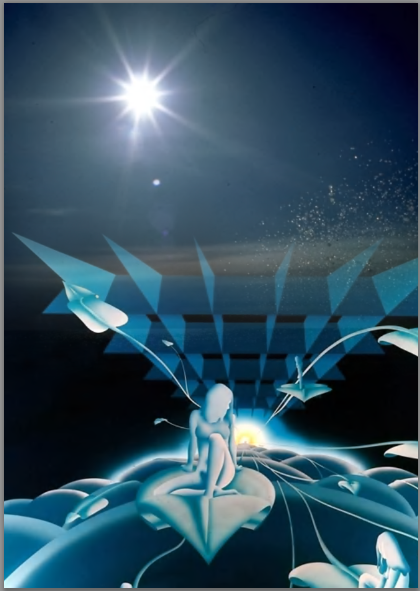
The image is being revealed

This is the power of a none destructive technique

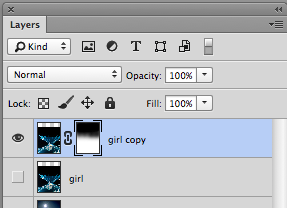
PAINT WITH BLACK TO BRUSH OFF THE IMAGE

PAINT WITH WHITE TO BRUSH ON THE IMAGE

**19. Reveal the background of the  
 paper**

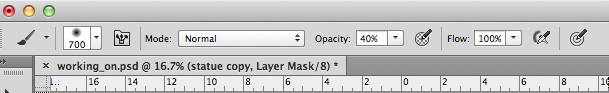


Note what is happening to the mask on the layer, there is a solid black silhouette of a the statue showing how you have revealed the paper background

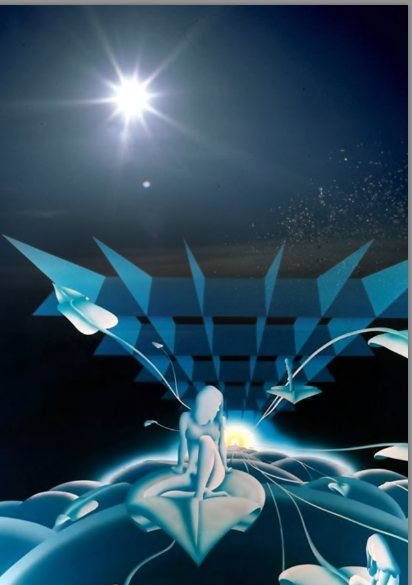


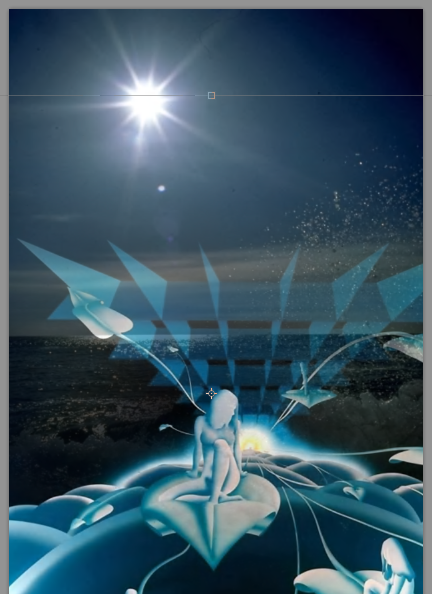
20. It is now time to blend the girl in a little it is too prominent

input 40 % into the opacity box, this will soften the brush making   
 it less opaque

 It is like using a rubber gently to erase a small amount of   
 pigment (pixels) instead of using it harshly and removing all the  
 pigment (pixels)

Before After





**Part 3 Using Layer Blends**

Please see additional tutorial for using blending modes in

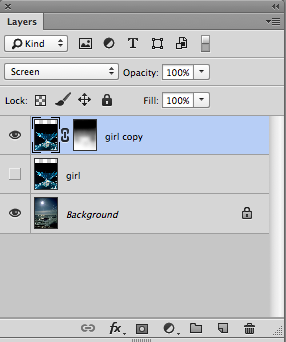
Photoshop essential blends modes for photo editing Stage 1

Quite simply, layer blend modes give us different ways for a layer to interact with, or "blend" with, the layer or layers below it. Without layer blend modes, the only real way we have of blending layers together is by reducing the opacity (or fill) of a layer, which usually doesn't give us very interesting results. But with blend modes, not only do they unlock a world of creative possibilities, especially when we combine them with layer masks, they can also be extremely helpful when it comes to editing, retouching and restoring photos, and they can save us a whole lot of time!

Keep the layer opacity of girl copy to 100%

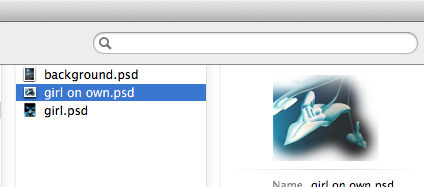
Either drag the slider or highlight the number and input the value

21. Press and hold down the   
 the layer blending mode   
 drop down box and   
 select SCREEN for the  
 layer Statue copy

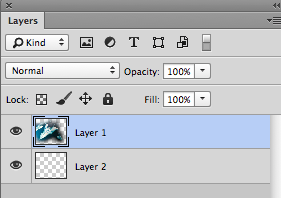


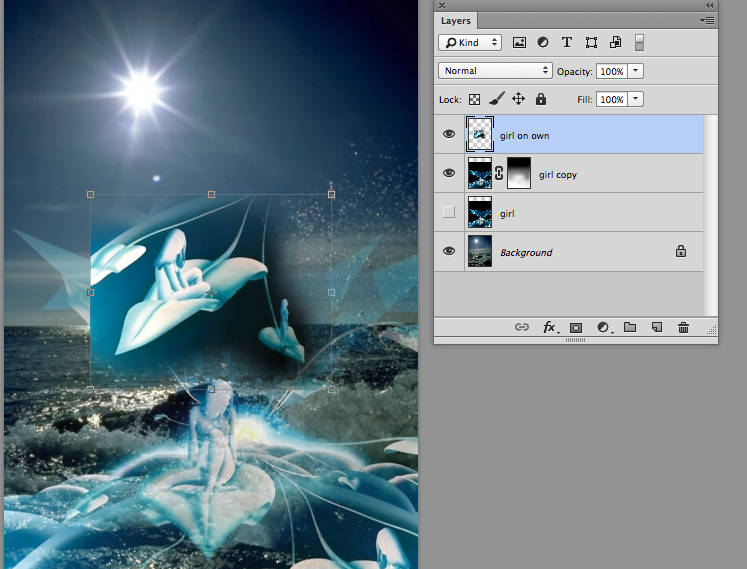
Observe your background layer the SEA is now partially visible

22. Open the image girl\_on\_own.psd



23. Copy the layer 1



24. And paste into your new  
 document size and  
 position at the bottom left

hand side

25.Change the layer blending mode to screen and make as many  
 copies of the this layer as you want positioning them on the  
 document

