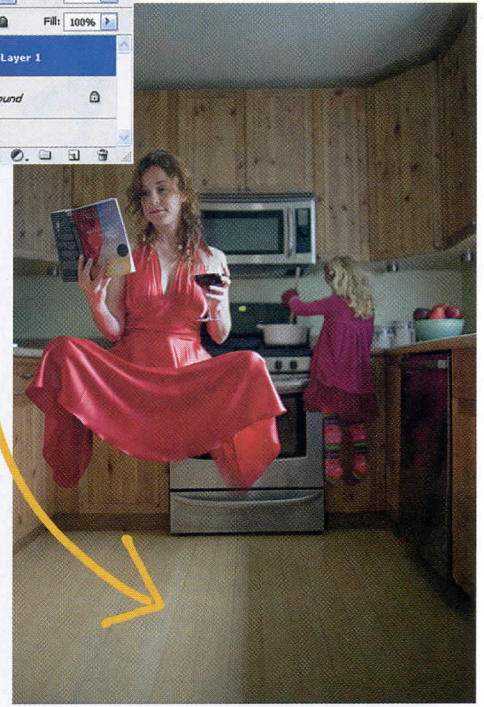# MASTER CLASS

FLICKR MAGIC
BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SUPERSTARS LAUREN ROSENBAUM AND PATRICK SMITH

Far from desperate, **this self-avowed housewife** takes it easy while her daughter does the cooking. But Lauren Rosenbaum must be spending some of that free time using **Photoshop** to make her family lighter than air. On the following pages, Rosenbaum, whose work you can see in our Flickr feature on page 38, shares her technique. Time is also key to the **spectacular seascapes** of Flickr's Patrick Smith, who explains how he combines long exposures with a rare willingness to wait for changing conditions.

From Lauren Rosenbaum's *The Modern Day Housewife* series on Flickr.

Layers × | Channels | Paths
Normal | Opacity: 100%
Lock: | Fill: 100%
Layer 1
Background

PHOTOSHOP MOTHER

SHE LEVITATES SELF AND KIDS! HERE'S HOW FLICKR SUPERSTAR LAUREN ROSENBAUM DOES IT ALL.

P hotoshop is a notorious timesink for photographers, which makes you wonder how Lauren Rosenbaum—a full-time mother of three small children—got to be so good at it. Rosenbaum is an active Flickr member who attracts many visitors to her photostream, and part of the secret to optimizing her time is that she has made family a primary photographic subject. Her kids
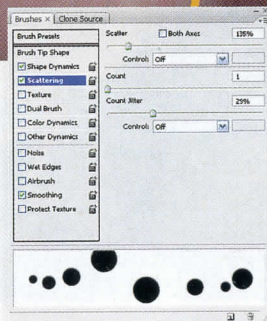
© LAUREN ROSENBAUM (7)

A simpler stunt than the kitchen step-by-step above, Rosenbaum's self-portrait in triplicate combines four shots: One of the empty scene and three of it with herself in different positions. She layered the shots in Photoshop, then painted herself in on the top three layers, with the foreground color set to black.

in particular are willing participants in her photography. And while we were charmed (as are all the Flickr members who've included her work in their "Favorites" set) by Rosenbaum's artfully staged and heavily manipulated images, much of her work is in a spontaneous vein. Here, though, Rosenbaum explains step-by-step how to make things "float" in Photoshop, using an image from her whimsical *The Modern Day Housewife* series as an example. (See page 38 for another image from the series.)

Rosenbaum does manage to squeeze in outside requests for family portraiture and wedding photography. "I have a vision of offering 'magic' pictures for others—floating kids and levitating families—but I haven't pursued that yet," she says. "I'll get to it once the kids are all in school."

—RUSSELL HART

CLASS NOTE: "SET THE FOREGROUND TO BLACK AND JUST PAINT OVER THE CHAIRS, STOOLS, AND TABLES."

STEPS 1+2
Setting up the Shot
Once you've chosen the setting for your photograph, place your camera on a tripod (or a stable surface), compose, and take a "before" shot that's empty of all the people and other elements you want to make float. Then introduce your floating elements, supporting them in position on chairs, stools, small tables, etc. (If you're including yourself in the portrait, you can use a wireless remote or the self-timer on your camera.) Take a second shot.

STEP 3
Erasing the Supports
Open both images in Photoshop. Select the Move tool, hold down the shift key, and drag the main shot onto the background shot. Add a Layer Mask by clicking the Layer Mask button at the bottom of the Layers palette. This adds a white box to the main shot layer. Using the Paintbrush tool with your foreground color set to black, simply paint over the chairs, stools, or tables until they disappear, replaced by the background scene. If you accidentally paint over something you want to keep, you can switch the foreground color to white and paint it back in. Once you're done, merge the layers.

STEP 4
Changing the Color:
Create a duplicate layer. Select your Paintbrush tool and set it to a soft brush. Click on the foreground color and choose the color you want to paint with. (For this shot I used the Eyedropper tool and clicked on my dress.) Set the mode to Hue and then paint over the areas you want to change. If you make a mistake you can use the Erase tool or step backwards in the History Palette. Once you're done, merge the layers.

STEPS 5+6
Adding Polka Dots
Add a new layer and choose a hard brush. (I chose size 40.) Go into the Brush Manager; if you can't find the button, go to Windows> Brushes. Click on Brush Tip Shape and increase the spacing. (I used 176 percent.) Then click on Shape Dynamics and increase the size jitter. (I used 70 percent.) Go into Scattering and increase it. (I chose 135 percent.) I used the same red from the earlier step, but you can change the color. Paint over the areas where you'd like dots. Once you're done, reduce the opacity of the layer to about 10 percent. For the final version I cropped to 8x10 and cloned out unwanted details.

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