

# Adobe Photoshop

Artistic Liquify techniques in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or later

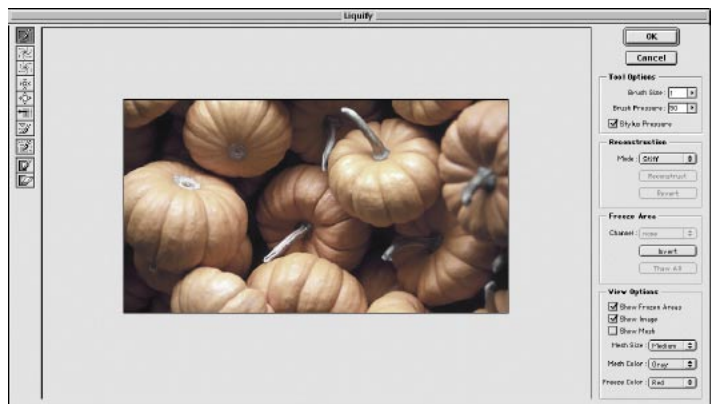


Although the Liquify command can be used in retouching and restoring images, it can also be used in a more intuitive and artistic manner. This tip and technique will explore the use of the Liquify command in conjunction with other filters to create unique images to help express a personal vision.

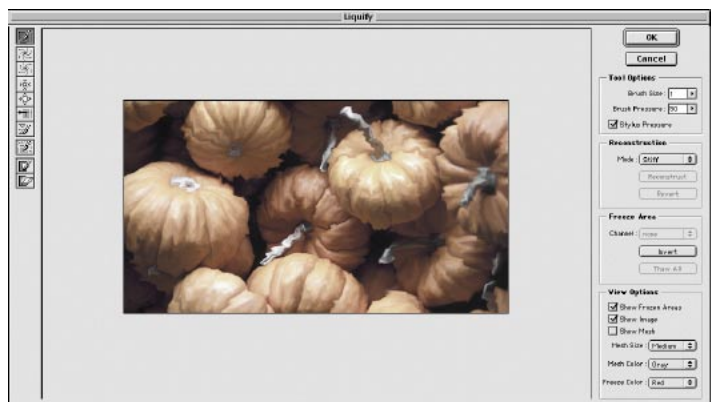
Open the image that you want to add the distortion to. For additional flexibility after adding a distortion, create a duplicate layer of the image by selecting Layer > New > Layer Via Copy. *Note: if you have a multi layered file, you might want to flatten it before using the Liquify command as Liquify only works on one layer at a time.*



Select Image > Liquify. In the Liquify dialog box select the distort brush that you wish to use. In the Tool Options, select a brush that is the correct size for the distortion that you want to create and adjust the Brush Pressure as needed. *Note: if you have a pressure sensitive tablet, check the pressure sensitive box.*



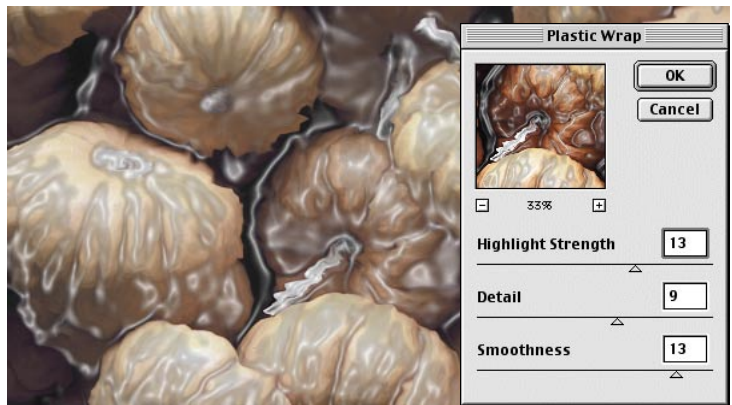
Paint in the image to create the desired distortion. If you don't like the distortion, you can use the Reconstruct tool to paint out the distortion. *Note: it's helpful to check the Show Mesh option in the View Options for visual feedback white painting in or out distortions.* When finished, click OK.



To create additional variations of the distortion (by changing the way that the distorted layer interacts with the original undistorted layer below), try decreasing the Opacity or changing the Blend Mode of the distorted Layer.



Applying additional filters. In an attempt to mimic the process of distorting Polaroid SX-70 film\*, after using Liquify to create the distortion, be sure that your foreground and background colors are set to their defaults and select Filter > Artistic > Plastic Wrap. Use the preview window to see the changes in Highlight Strength, Detail and Smoothness options as you move the sliders.



To manipulate the Plastic Wrap's effect on the layer, directly after applying it, select Edit > Fade Plastic Wrap and decrease the opacity or change the Blend Mode. In this example, lessening the Opacity to 75% and changing the Blend Mode to Hard Light created an effect similar to the base of the film showing through the image as you get with the Polaroid SX-70 film.



\* This effect is traditionally created using different objects to push and distort the different layers of emulsion on Polaroid SX-70 film while it is developing. The advantage of using the computer to achieve this effect is the flexibility both with the amount of time that you can spend on an image as well as the ability to reconstruct areas and rework them as needed.