# Subject "Separation"

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# PLAN FOR TONIGHT

- A short presentation covering
  - Identifying the structure of your image - what is the main subject
  - How can you better differentiate this from the background
  - Available techniques using layer masks
  - Moving your image onto a different background
- A quick question/discussion session
- Informal practice sessions using your own images and laptop
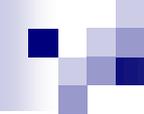
# UNDERSTANDING YOUR IMAGE STRUCTURE

# IMAGE ANALYSIS

- Look at your image and ask what is the main subject?
- Does the eye automatically focus on and come back to this?
- If not why?
- Cropping might help to improve composition (rule of thirds etc.)
- But does the background compete with or complement the main subject?
- What can be done to improve the image?

**DIFFERENTIAL PROCESSING OF THE SUBJECT AND BACKGROUND**

# REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

- Are there any small highlights that need to be removed

- Are there any other distracting elements in the background

- Leave the image and come back to it after a few days to see if you have missed anything

# CREATE SUBJECT/BACKGROUND MASKS FOR SEPARATE EDITING

- Carry out any basic post-processing adjustments
- Make separate masks/layers for main subject(s) and background
- First edit the main subject to optimum for:
  - Exposure, levels/curves, saturation, colour balance, clarity, sharpness etc
- Then edit the background layer to complement/enhance the subject again using similar controls

# SOME SIMPLE EXAMPLES

# IF THE BACKROUND IS RUBBISH OR YOU WANT A DIFFERENT ONE

- Using your normal image editor cut out the main subject
- Paste onto a new background which suits it better
- Simples!!

# OVER TO PHIL

# YOUR TURN TO HAVE A GO!!

# Good luck and have fun

*Don't be afraid to experiment with different settings*