Mac Photos, Part 2: Editing

By Christian Boyce (macman@christianboyce.com, christianboyce.com)
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1. General advice

🌈 Make a duplicate first!

🌈 Use the Magic Wand (Auto Enhance)

Original
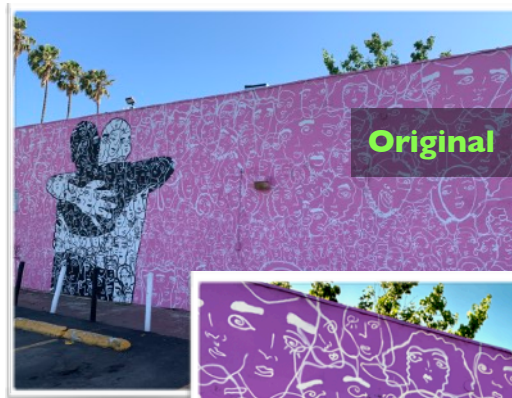
2. All about cropping

🌈 You can crop freehand

🌈 You can crop with fixed aspect ratios

🌈 You can mirror (flip) an image

🌈 You can't adjust perspective (but you could on your iPhone)

Edited

Exercise 1

Crop and straighten image

Flip horizontally

Magic Wand/Auto Enhance

Adjust White Balance

Change color of wall

Adjust Light and Color overall

Remove imperfections with Retouch tool

Make your whites whiter and your blacks blacker

Keyboard Shortcuts

A for **A**djust

F for **F**ilter

C for **C**rop

M for **M**ake sure you remember how the image used to look

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Exercise 2

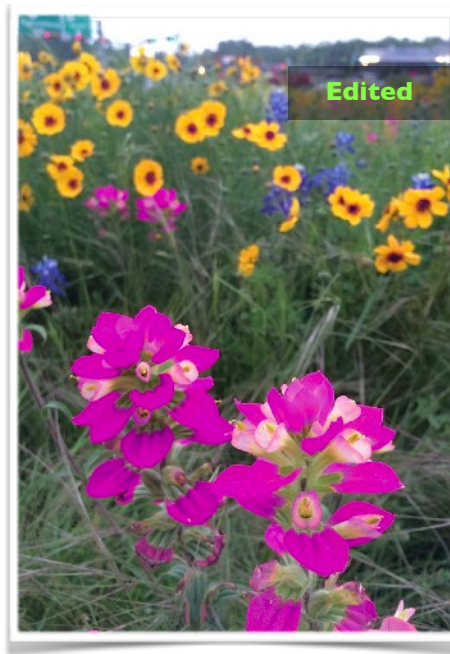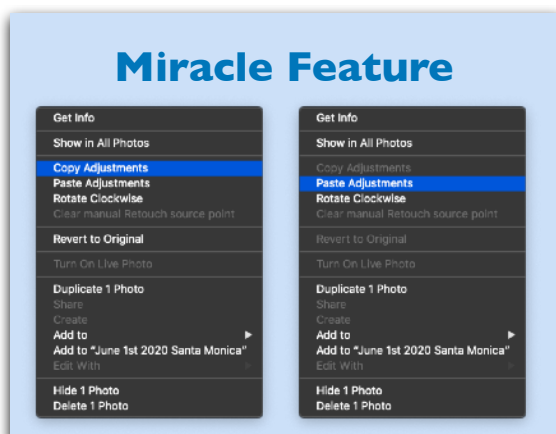Use what you just learned to change the color of the orange flowers without changing anything else.

Original

Edited

M

Exercise 3

Copy the adjustments from the image in Exercise 2 and paste them into another image.

Original

Edited

Miracle Feature

Get Info	Get Info
Show in All Photos	Show in All Photos
Copy Adjustments	Copy Adjustments
Paste Adjustments	**Paste Adjustments**
Rotate Clockwise	Rotate Clockwise
Clear manual Retouch source point	Clear manual Retouch source point
Revert to Original	Revert to Original
Turn On Live Photo	Turn On Live Photo
Duplicate 1 Photo	Duplicate 1 Photo
Share	Share
Create	Create
Add to ▶	Add to ▶
Add to "June 1st 2020 Santa Monica"	Add to "June 1st 2020 Santa Monica"
Edit With ▶	Edit With ▶
Hide 1 Photo	Hide 1 Photo
Delete 1 Photo	Delete 1 Photo

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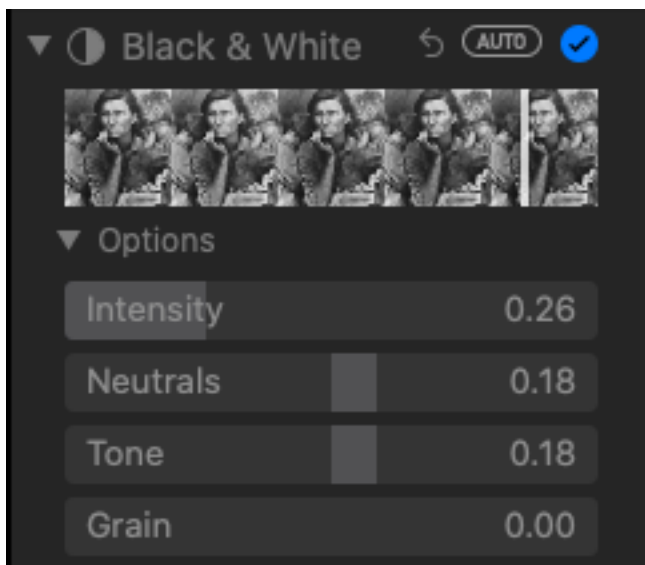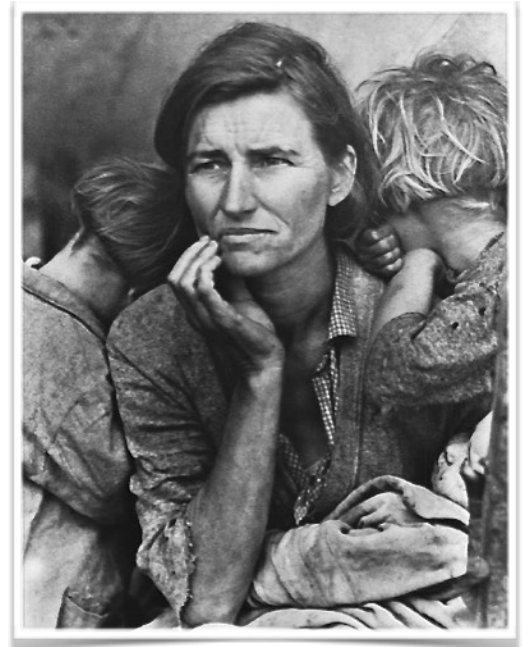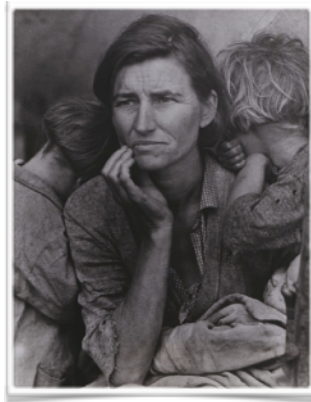Join my mailing list and get more tips like these.

3. Using the editing tools

🏵 Not sure where to start? Try cropping.

🏵 Use Auto Enhance *as a starting point*.

🏵 Sharpness is for *edges*. Definition is for *regions* (skin, fabric, sky, water)

🏵 Brilliance adjusts *lighting* where needed.

Exercise 4

Photos has special adjustments for black and white photos. Let's use them, and Sharpen, and Levels/Luminance to improve this famous photo. Shadows too, maybe.

Black & White	↺ AUTO ✔

▼ Options	
Intensity	0.26
Neutrals	0.18
Tone	0.18
Grain	0.00

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Exercise 5 (Portrait Mode)

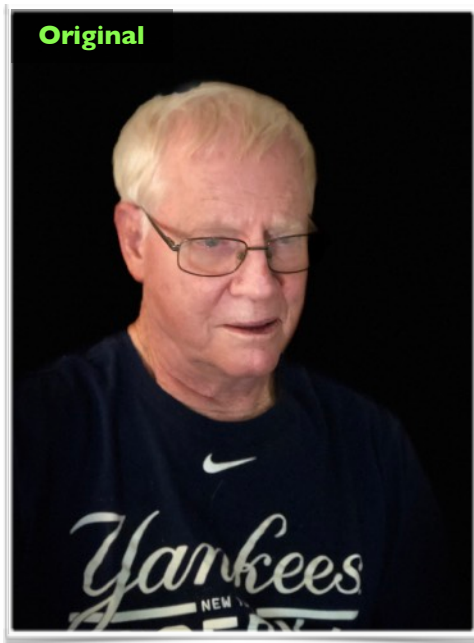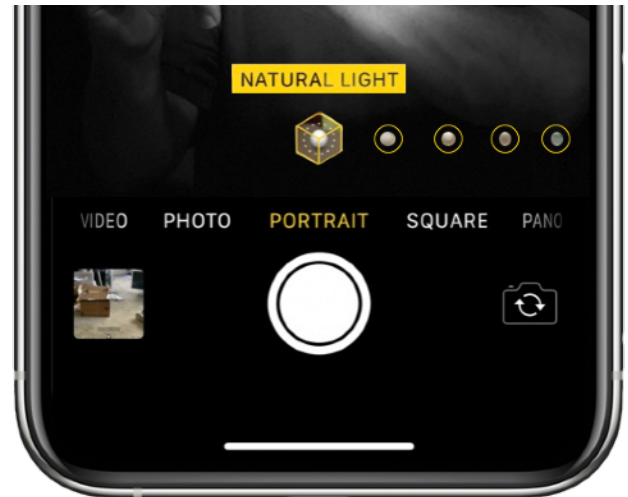Experiment with different lighting modes (I chose "Contour")

Sharpen

Crop

Remove logo from shirt (Retouch)

Vignette

Bonus: We can add a smile after the fact!

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Exercise 6 (Portrait Mode again)

This image is from a newer iPhone, which takes better Portrait Mode pictures. Notice the Depth control when we go to Edit.

Change depth of field (blur the background more).

Switch to Contour lighting.

Remove a few freckles, and crow's feet too.

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4. Working with movies

🌈 All you can do with movies is trim them. Use yellow handles to show start and stop points. Revert to Original in Edit mode to get back what you trimmed. (The iPhone does more with movies than the Mac does.)

🌈 You can export a frame from the movie… **to the Pictures folder!** Don't look for it in Photos, it's not there (but you can drag it in).

Pictures

Exercise 7

Remove the shaky beginning and end of this movie.

Scan through the movie frame by frame and export one frame to your Pictures folder.