Color Correction with Curves

Assingment

1. Download the folder called **Ex7_assets.zip** from the calendar. Copy the folder to your Desktop, and rename the folder on your computer using your name in the following format: lastname_firstname_09.

2. Open the Harp_seal.psd file in Photoshop.

3. Make visible the Info palette. (Window > Info)

4. Create two Color Sampler points: One in the Shadow area and one in the Highlight area of the image. To add a Color Sampler point, Shift-click on the image at the desired sampling point using the Eyedropper tool (I).

   a. You may use Threshold (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Threshold...) to find these points, but also "eyeball-it" to make sure the points make sense.

5. Create a new Adjustment Layer using Curves. (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Curves...). Name it Curves.

6. Using the numeric color correction method, adjust the Highlight and Shadow points of the image until the image is visually improved.

   - The Shadow color values should be between **0–20** (15 is a good target).

   - The Highlight color values should be **250**.

7. Toggle the visibility of the Adjustment Layer, comparing the original image to the corrected image. If further adjustments are required, double-click on the Adjustment Layer icon and make your changes.

8. Save your work and close the file.

9. Repeat Steps 4 through 8 on each of the remaining images in the folder. Reference the following notes as you do so:

   a. **Upsidedown, Mideast City, and Portfolio** :: These images need more contrast.

   b. **Cheetah** :: As you work with the Curves, keep in mind that the cheetah itself is the focus of the image, not the background. Any color adjustments should keep our attention on it and not the background.

   c. **Lego** :: The background and paper should all be neutral white; the gray Lego pieces are also a good neutral to correct to.

   d. **Sara in Wagon** :: The color balance is just a bit off, and the contrast is somewhat low. Pay special attention to the skin tones—the poor girl is a little blue.

   e. **Blue Pumpkin** :: Poor auto white balance has made the pumpkin and child very blue.

   f. **Bangle Shop** :: The highlights are tough in this image—much of the light areas are blown out. Look also for neutral areas of this image and correct them while also lightening up the image as a whole.

   g. **Speed Shop** :: The trick is to make the most interesting areas of the image look good and less under-exposed while not blowing out the background elements.

   h. **LeopoldKetel** :: This image has difficult highlights, and a color cast that must be removed. Look for neutral areas.

10. Copy the folder containing your work for this lab to the designated drop off folder on the server.

What to turn in:

In the Dropoff folder, name the folder containing your native files lastname_firstname_ex7 into the exercise>ex7 folder.

This exercise is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 7th, 2019.