

CASE STUDY: OPTIONAL - CUBIST WATERFALL

Case Study by Kathleen Corgan

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CLIENT	Digital Imaging ART 125 / Professor Deborah Krikun
PROJECT TITLE	OPTIONAL: Cubist Waterfall
DURATION	Fall 2013
TEAM	Kathleen Corgan

DESCRIPTION This final project for Digital Imaging was an optional choice, and I chose to follow through with a variation on the Cubist theme from earlier in the semester. This time, rather than treat the subject in the painterly manner of the original Cubist Masters, I chose to go in the direction of the more contemporary Hockney photographs. I thought the cascading water of the falls at Croton Gorge Dam would make an interesting study in fragmented pieces, reflecting the natural fracturing of the water as it cascades relentlessly over the natural rock wall.

RESEARCH There were really only two main sources for reference and research on this project; the first being my past experience as a location scout for motion pictures and the great deal of time I used to spend photographing potential locations in a panoramic format to be pieced together at the photo lab and presented for selection to a director and designer. The other reference and inspiration were the photographic landscapes and portraits of David Hockney, and I looked

over the numerous different ways he would choose to apply a collection of photos to create a complete image.

STRATEGY Initially I took panoramic stills at the location from several angles, capturing both the falls and dam during the concept phase. I started with these photos, but then returned to take a more comprehensive series, covering the entire area in a grid from a frontal perspective. I also shot several key frames at a closer focal length, to give myself the flexibility of adding detail to the existing composited image without losing quality in having to blow up unique frames. My first idea was to recreate a larger panoramic landscape from the parts and dissect them into tinier squares much like a typical Hockney, but as I pieced together the frames, overlapping at very different points with slight variations in exposure, I began to like the grid-like pattern that naturally emerged. Rather than cut each frame apart I decided to treat each to unique blend options and add drop shadows that had a rich, inky quality, as if the frames had been put together from separate color plates that bled one into the other.

CHALLENGES The biggest immediate challenge for this project was to finish on a condensed time frame when the creative ideas just seemed to be getting going! My solution was to make choices on a few key effects and stick to that theme, letting the repetition of color and blending effect tie the individual images together.

RESULTS The result is an interesting start to a project that could yield several different versions or studies as part of an ongoing series. On this one, plan to continue working on a more painterly treatment of the frames, taking the Cubist element almost back to an Impressionist feel with the addition of brushwork in the existing palette.

