INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Creating the Fountain of Youth

Information Sheet No. PS772

The Fountain of Youth - that elusive magical location where the old turn young, the young turn younger, and Zoiberg turns into a lavae. Watch your face wither and age no longer, as you have found the fountain of youth, and it's right here in your computer!

Accelerated decrepitude

Our aim here is to return an old, though by no means unattractive, woman to her former glory. She may not have walked the catwalks in her youth, but by the end of this tutorial she just might.

Use the Hi Resolution photograph older woman which is in the Fountain of Youth folder.

Facial Reconstruction

For the first step, you'll want to open the liquify tool. Duplicate the layer and then select Filter > Liquify

Begin by lifting areas that have sagged with age - The cheeks, lips, brow & ears. The nose and ears keep growing throughout life, so you'll want to neaten these up a little.

The Skin-Job

You are nowgoing to begin replacing the skin. Although a slightly different technique was used here, you'll generally start by duplicating the layer, running a strong dust and scratches or blur filter over the image, and then selectively erasing the details. You'll only want the dust and scratches layer to be about 30% opacity to soften the skin tone.

In this instance several skin samples and brushs were used to colorize them to match the skin, replacing areas panel by panel. Try not to lose too much of the original skin texture, so while the pores and wrinkles are minimized & softened, the character of the face remains.

Say “Kiss me”

You’ll need to do a heap of painting around the lips to plump them up, and allow them to catch the light. Select the existing hightlights and enhanced them with Image > Adjust > Brightness/Contrast. In this example they have been colorized them a little to give a slight gloss lipstick appearance.

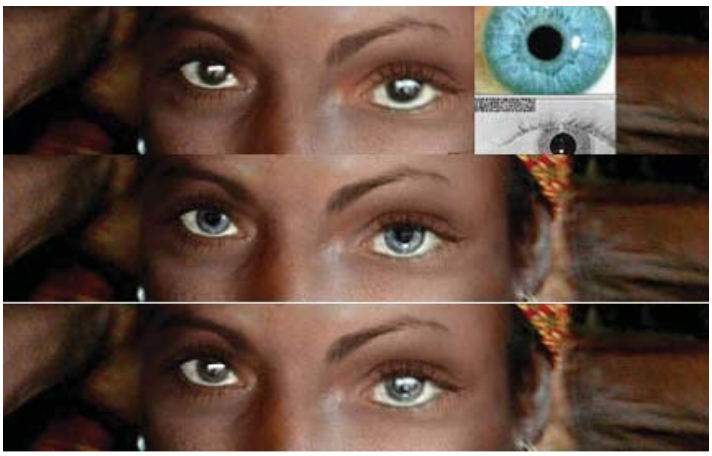
Design the eyes!

The first step is always taken with the eyes and teeth; desaturate them with the Sponge Tool; they’re never white. Be careful not to overdo it, but removing yellowed or red eyes is vital. You might also choose to soften or smudge parts of the white to give it a healthier look.

With skin grafts & extensive painting, piece by piece replace the skin around the eyes to get rid of the “hollowed” look that comes with age. You’ll need to burn or dodge areas to get them just right, but with a bit of persistence, you should be able to get something halfway decent.

Having done that you’ll want to paint some eyelashes in one by one, and rework any age damage done to the eyebrows.

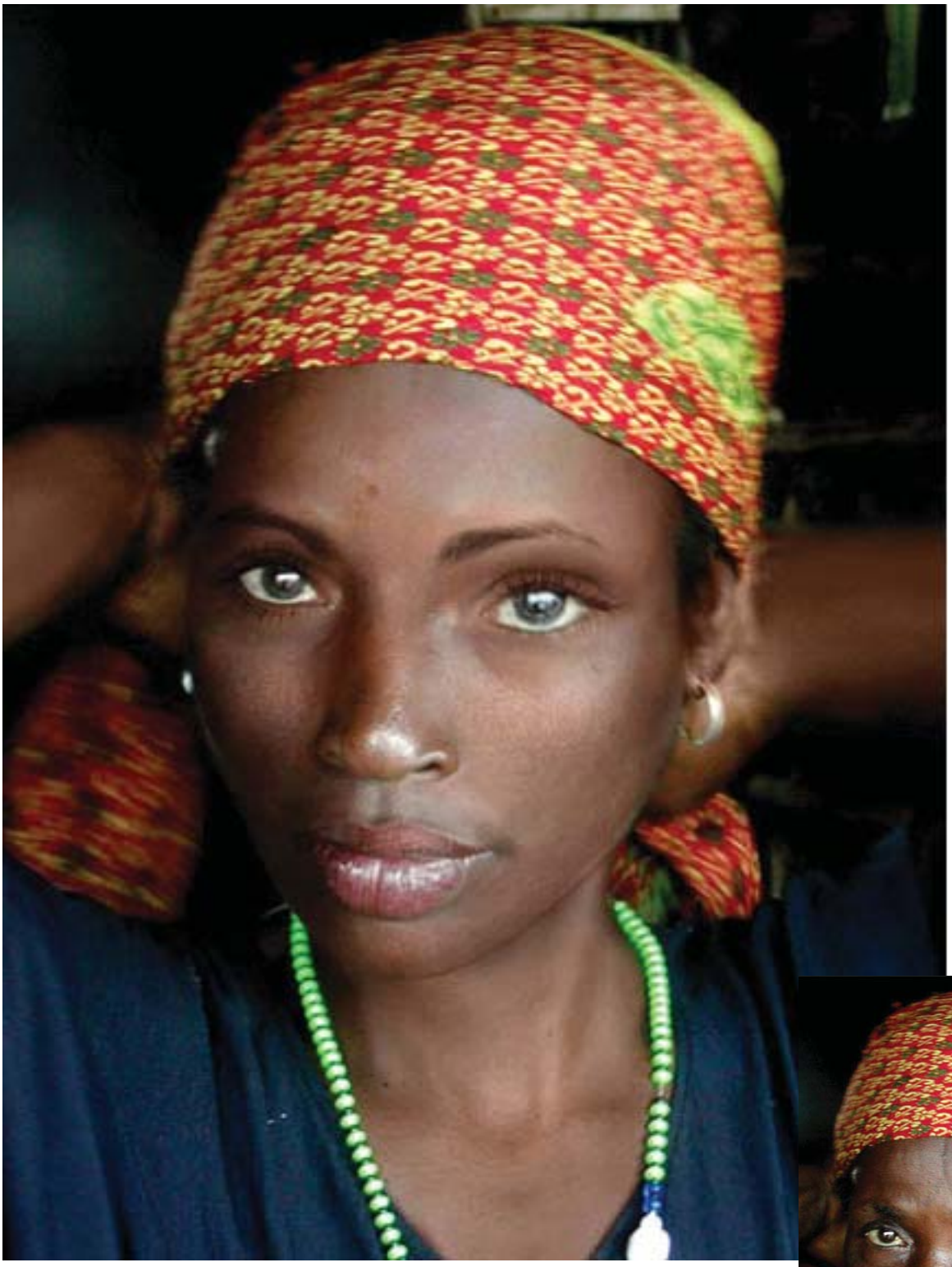
You might choose to enhance this beyond strict realism by making the eyes themselves a little more engaging. For example you could add a slight blue hue to the eyes. This is a subtle effect, and shouldn’t be overdone.



The Prodigal Daughter Returns!

And voila. The finished result, ready to strut down the runways of any fashion center.

Compare the original in the lower right on the next page with the larger result at the top.



(Above) THE FINAL RESULT AFTER VISITING THE "FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH . . ."

(Right) THE ORIGINAL BEFORE VISITING THE "FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH . . ."