

Forcing a Subject (Making It More Dominant) with a Smart Filter Blur

On theme pages or to illustrate features, your staffs may want to force a portion of a photo to stand out. You are mimicking a short depth of field when you take a photo with a camera.

Directions for using a Smart Filter to add blur

1. Open a photo. In this case, one with a very distracting background where we want to focus the reader on our subject.
2. Choose Filter>Convert for Smart Filter. The icon in the Layers panel will add a Smart Filter icon in the lower right corner. (Figure 1)
3. Choose Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur.
4. When the dialog box opens (Figure 2), make the radius 70.
5. After you click OK your Layers panel will look like this (Figure 3) with the addition of a Smart Filters Layer Mask.
6. In the Layers panel, click on the Mask to target it.
7. Choose the Brush tool by clicking the B key.
8. Make sure that your foreground color is black. To do this quickly, click the D key, which will return the colors to their Default of black and white. If white is the foreground color at the bottom of your Tool panel, click the X key to toggle to black.
9. Enlarge your Brush tool by clicking the right bracket key (]) until the brush is big enough to surround your subject. (You can make the brush smaller by clicking the left bracket key.)
10. Once the brush is the right size, click it on the photo.
11. Click the brush a second time in exactly the same spot. This will make sure that you have removed the filter from the area completely.
12. If you have other areas you would like to mask that weren't part of that circle (like the elbow in this photo), then make your brush smaller and paint in that area. Remember, if you remove too much of the filter, you can always paint it back in by making white your foreground color and painting that.

Original photo

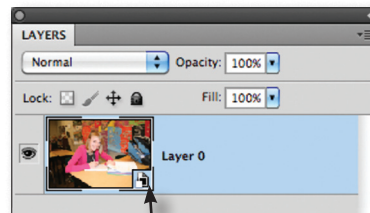


Figure 1

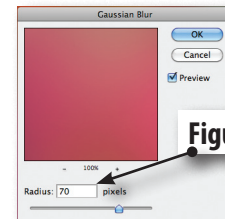


Figure 2

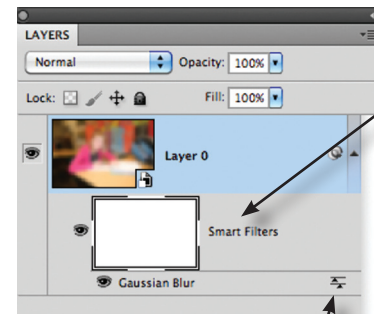


Figure 3



After a Smart Gaussian Blur filter is applied

If you would like to lower the opacity of the filter itself, click the Filter Blending Options icon in the lower right corner of the filter name in the Layers panel. This will open a dialog box where you can lower the opacity of only the filter.

To use this photo in your yearbook, save a copy as a JPEG for uploading to YTO or for placing into InDesign using Picture Placer.